

THE

# Country GUIDE

CANADA'S NATIONAL RURAL MONTHLY

In this issue . . .

- Year End Review
- Ottawa Farm Conference
- Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Claus



DECEMBER 1959 — 15¢





#### ...for the PUDDING!

Make your Christmas pudding sing this season by using Blue Ribbon Rum Flavouring, Nutmeg, Cloves and Cinnamon. These subtle seasonings will transform a "store-boughten" pudding!

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## Letters

### Early Mechanizers

I was very interested in the article by George Shepherd, "From Flail to Combine." It dealt very well with harvesting, but in the story of Edmunds' and Shand's combine he was wrong in stating that the combine harvester "was pulled by horses or mules."

I knew both Colin Shand and Harry Edmunds personally, and also that they hauled their machine with a Hart Parr tractor. The combine harvester did a good job straight combining, and had they waited until the pigweed had been killed by frost, all would have been well.

The last year they operated the machine they shipped four carloads of beautiful No. 1 hard wheat from Welby Siding. But because of so much damp pigweed seed, it spoiled it all and they had to pay to have the grain picked out of the cars and dumped into the lake.

ARTHUR G. KELLY,  
Spy Hill, Sask.

### How About the Wife?

In regard to the article "Two Hundred Extra Acres" by Cliff Faulkner (October issue), which was about Wes Houchin's farm at Bowden. No doubt Wes is one of the best farmers in the district, but why give all the credit to Wes, his two sons and the hired man? Has he no wife and does she not deserve a part in his life?

I have known them for years and I know when Wes and help are busy on the farm, Marg comes to Innisfail with loads of hogs, and also comes up with loads of grain to be made into chop for hogs and cattle, whatever it may be. So I feel Marg too should have a wee bit of credit for successful farming as well as Wes. The same applies to the Gilkysons in La Glace, as I know them real well too. Give the farm woman a break.

A TIRED HOUSEWIFE,  
Innisfail, Alta.

### Not Ready for New Flag

The Guide has had a number of letters of late regarding a new flag for Canada. This writer is of the opinion that some of us are over-anxious and unduly hasty in this matter.

I believe the Union Jack fulfills our present needs and can very well do so for some time yet. Through comradeship in war and the requirements of international commerce it is known and respected throughout the world; not the least by multitudes of fine people who reach our shores, seeking that freedom that has been taken away from them in their homeland.

I am of the opinion, notwithstanding pollster statistics, there are still vast numbers of Canadians who are not ready to see this emblem, with its long tradition of accomplishment in both peace and war, discarded.

We are not yet a united people and it will require much more than a new flag design to make us so. We have never had a great national upheaval, such as had the United States for example, to create this desired condition. Our freedom was inherited, not fought for.

This is not to say that at some future date a new flag may not be desirable, and the acceptance of which might be emphasized by events that could draw our two dominant races closer together. But let us not hurry.

JOHN HAYNE,  
Brights Grove, Ont.

### Dedicated Ditty

We Canadians, of over 30 different nationalities, have no national emblem to stimulate true Canadianism. The colonial status of Canada was dropped over 10 years ago. Yet, we still have no distinctive flag. The following few lines give an idea of what a native-born Canadian thinks of this situation:

*Now that Canada's a Nation  
Where in Hades are all our statesmen?  
Are there any to be had?  
Can't they see we need a flag?  
Stand up and second this motion,  
Echoing between two oceans.  
Let's hear the heartbeat of that note  
For Canada, here is my vote.*

E. E. RAJALA,  
Nipigon, Ont.

### Christmas Cakes

Last year I used the recipes from your magazine for my Christmas cakes. They were lovely cakes and I received many compliments on them. Unfortunately, the magazine disappeared before I had taken out the recipes. I hoped they would be published again this autumn, but they are not.

Could you please send me the two recipes. The light one contained crushed pineapple and coconut, and the dark one molasses and quite a lot of fruit. Please do not disappoint me because my family are all expecting the same kind of cakes again this year.

MRS. CYRIL WELLS,  
Makinson's C.B.,  
Nfld.

### Veteran Quilter

I have taken The Country Guide for a long time and find many good articles in it. The stories are so clean and the cooking and sewing articles good.

I do not now live on the farm. I am 86 years old, I live alone and do my own work. When I saw the article about quilt making I wondered if any of the ladies had patterns for articles I could make to sell for missionary work. I have made nine quilts but would like a change. If they would send me patterns I would pay the postage. Would any of our farmer friends let me hear from them?

MRS. NELLIE COMBS,  
9814-87th Ave.,  
Edmonton, Alta.

### The Pleasure Is Ours

The Country Guide has been coming to my home for quite some time and I really enjoy it very much. It is a wonderful magazine and there is something for every member of the family between its covers. Many thanks for such a fine magazine.

MRS. HELEN L. MCMILLAN,  
Camden, N.S.

# THE Country GUIDE

Incorporating The Nor'-West Farmer and Farm and Home  
CANADA'S NATIONAL RURAL MONTHLY

## In This Issue

- **CHRISTMAS IS COMING** and the goose is . . . medium-sized, non-oily and the cheapest meat on the farm, says Alvin MacDonald—see page 17.



- **OTTAWA FARM CONFERENCE** suggested changing attitudes to price assistance. Report is on page 11, editorial on page 4.
- **FAREWELL TO '59** with a glance back at the year's happenings and discussion of the results—pages 13, 14 and 15.

**DOLLS ARE SO IMPORTANT** that they deserve expert hospital treatment. Phyllis Hodgson tells about it on page 41.

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**COVER:** Eva Luoma's picture has caught the thrill of bringing home the tree. May your tree keep its needles, your turkey cook tender and your hearts be at peace. Merry Christmas!

BIG NEWS FROM NEW HOLLAND FOR 1960

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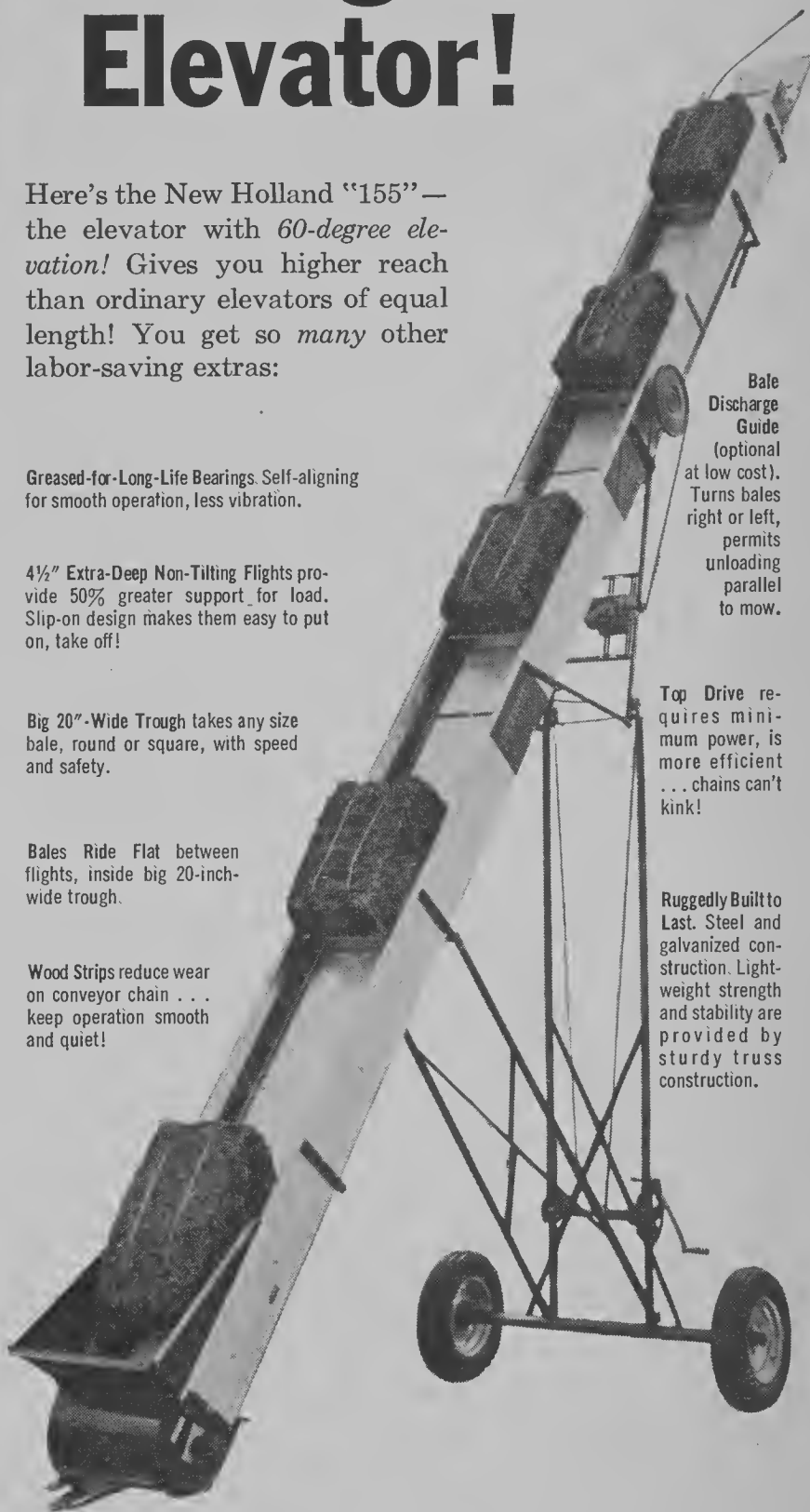
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# Editorials

## How Far Should Government Go?

*Decisions facing farming today will have to be made by farmers themselves.*

THIS simple statement was contained in the presentation of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture made to the recent Federal-Provincial Agricultural Conference at Ottawa. But is it true? We'd like to think it is. However, when we first heard it, we couldn't help but wonder if farmers will have the chance in future to make the decisions upon which their livelihood depends.

A program of deficiency payments on hogs for a limited volume of each farmer's top quality output is to begin in Canada next month. We question the wisdom of such a move, as we did the introduction of a similar program for eggs 3 months ago. It is not our purpose here to repeat our reasons for opposing deficiency payments as proposed, but to raise what, in the long run, may be much more pertinent questions. Is Canada going to have a state-directed farm economy? In effect, is our agriculture approaching the stage when it is to become a public utility? And if so, is this development really what the majority of our farmers want?

A lot of farmers we know may be repelled by such questions. But are they really so fantastic? Not at all!

The Federal Government, through the Minister of Agriculture, has made it quite clear that it has no compunction about directing the farm economy; even to the extent of arbitrarily deciding what quantity a farmer can produce if he expects to receive a fair price for his output. Government officials are now busily engaged in registering egg and hog producers to receive deficiency payments on these products. Producers of milk for manufacturing have been receiving flat payments from the Government for several months. Rumors have it that the

cream producers are likely to be the next group to be brought under the Government's wing.

THIS looks to be like a substantial move in the direction of a state-directed and -controlled farm economy. Is such a development in the best interests of both producers and consumers? Or are politicians likely to pay more attention to consumers when it is considered that farm workers are outnumbered 8 to 1 in the Canadian labor force?

Readers may recall that the dangers of moving toward more and more Government regimentation and control was clearly recognized at the annual meeting of the CFA last January. Delegates on that occasion debated and passed a resolution recommending the adoption of policies moving toward a producer-directed farm economy—this to be carried out largely by the various commodity groups and co-operatives working within a co-ordinated program. At the time Dr. H. H. Hannam, the CFA president, warned that to achieve such a goal would require bold and purposeful leadership, and without such leadership, Canada might very well end up with a state-managed farm economy.

The Federation has not changed its views. At the Ottawa Conference it recognized that it may be necessary to move in the direction of controlled marketing and production, because of the rising ability to produce, lagging world markets and limited expansion of domestic demand. However, the CFA felt that if this was the case, it could best be carried out by producers themselves.

This is the season for farm meetings. Farmers should be on the alert and prepared to make their wishes known. Otherwise, they may inadvertently lose their right to control their own destiny. V

## A Timely Warning

ALMOST at the outset of its work, the Royal Commission on railway problems ruled that it would hear evidence relating to freight rates on grain in Western Canada, commonly called the Crow's Nest Pass rates. From the time of this announcement in September, it has been obvious that these rates are to be given a great deal of attention.

Press reports have indicated that the railways will try to show why they should be paid much more than they now receive for carrying grain. The railways seem confident they can establish that the present rates do not adequately compensate them for their services. If and when this is established, they apparently intend to propose that since grain producers cannot afford to pay increased rates, the Government should make up the deficit in the form of a subsidy to the railways—a subsidy which would be charged against western farmers.

This probable action was given serious consideration at the recent annual meeting of the United Grain Growers Limited. It was pointed out that such a course could not only be dangerous for the future, but could be quite unfair.

Why dangerous? Western farmers might very

well be lulled into a false sense of security by suggestions that they should be protected by subsidy against the impact of higher freight rates on grain. Such a subsidy would be seriously resented by other groups in our society. If it were authorized, it might well become a subject for constant political attack in Parliament, and therefore might later be withdrawn.

Why unfair? If the railways require subsidies in one form or another, it does not necessarily follow that these should be charged to a single commodity such as grain. It is quite possible that rising labor costs, loss of traffic to other means of transportation, and inefficiency of railway operations, either alone or in combination, could be responsible for the railways' difficulties.

Any attempt to single out the Crow's Nest rates as the only problem affecting railway operations, or to make them the subject of exhaustive study apart from other rates, should be stoutly resisted. Surely no adequate assessment of the railways' problems can be made on such a basis.

The UGG delegate body unanimously accepted this reasoning and instructed the Company's Board of Directors to continue to defend the Crow's Nest rates on these grounds, both singly and in collaboration with other farm organizations. V

## The Golden Thread

WHAT shall it profit mankind if we harness the universe and if, at the same time, we are unable to conquer our passions, our fears, our greed and our prejudices? Where indeed lies the profit?

The world in which we live today remains a troubled world. Racism, with its prejudicial treatment of individuals because of differences in color or belief or status, is to be found within most communities in greater or lesser degree. Communism, with its disregard for people as individuals and its faith in the all importance of the state, exerts its constant pressure. Colonialism, with its familiar exploitation of the many for the few, is still with us to a degree. Hunger, of one kind or another, stares back at people in both eastern and western worlds.

It was Carl R. Rowan, an outstanding American journalist, who recently gave voice to these basic issues of our time.

Of the four, hunger, he thinks, is the most important. This is not always a hunger for physical needs. It can also be a hunger for dignity—a hunger that is becoming more evident with the growth of self-determination in the less developed countries. He defined it as a hunger for recognition and respect both for themselves as individuals and for their cultures.

We, in this country, have the same basic hunger. Whether we admit it or not, we also want to command the respect of others for the contribution we can make as individuals and as a nation. If we remember that this is a universal hunger, then we will find it much easier to understand the attitudes and actions of other nations.

Mr. Rowan suggested that in America today—where people can and do fulfill most of their material wants—there exists an attitude of complacency. People do admit to the need of solving such problems as race relationships. But, at the same time, they are reluctant to disturb their present way of living. They accept the easy way and do little, if anything, to ease the lot of others whether they are at home or abroad.

The recognition of this hunger is, as Mr. Rowan sees it, the greatest challenge of all. There are two alternatives: either we make the effort to understand and help those who are looking for the means of their own advancement or we let the bursting populations of Asia and Africa join forces with those who would undermine the advantages of western civilization. If we fail to make the right choice, Mr. Rowan warns, we shall suffer the consequences.

This surely is the season of the year when we should individually and collectively reflect upon the age-old question: For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? If we put our own material well-being ahead of those who are not so fortunate; if we as individuals and groups of people passively allow domination, prejudice and hunger to be imposed on others, we may expect to lose far more than we shall ever gain.

On the other hand, if we work to strengthen "the golden thread of exact and universal justice," of which Mr. Rowan speaks, we draw closer to the true meaning of Christmas. V

Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year  
to Our Readers



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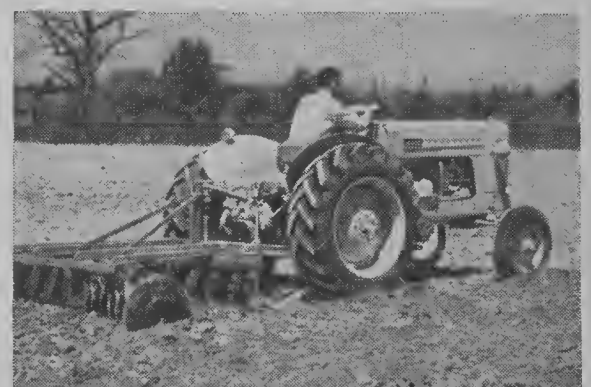
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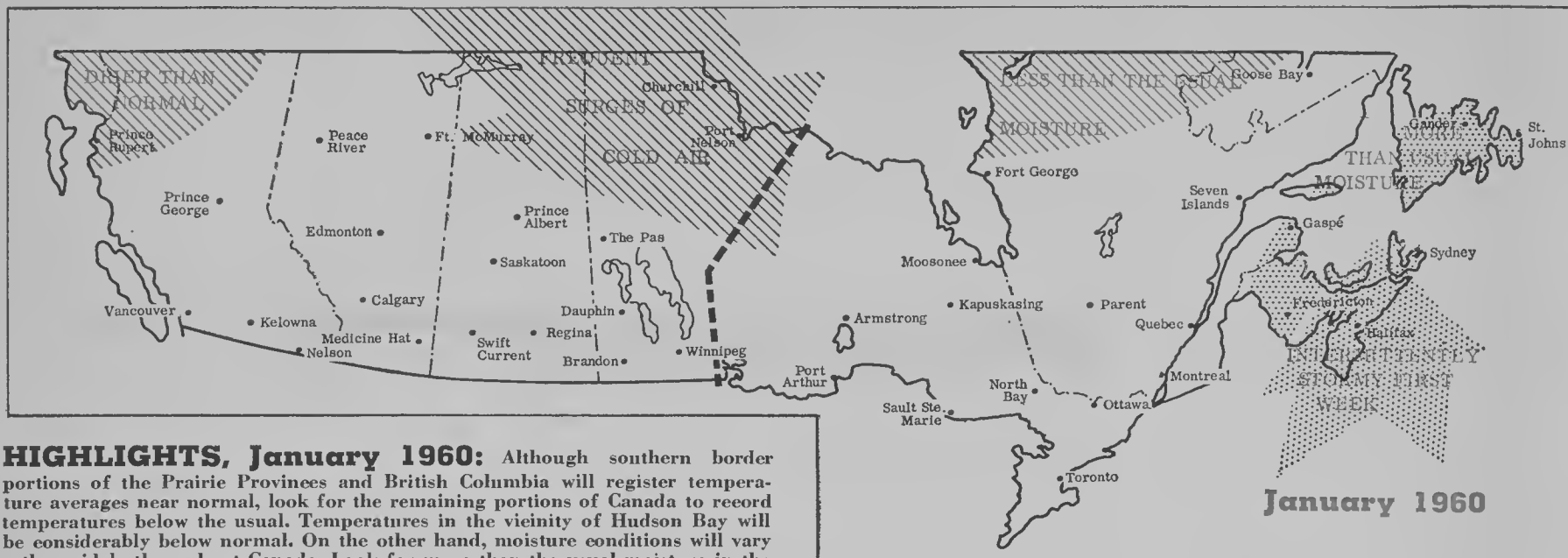
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## Weather Forecast

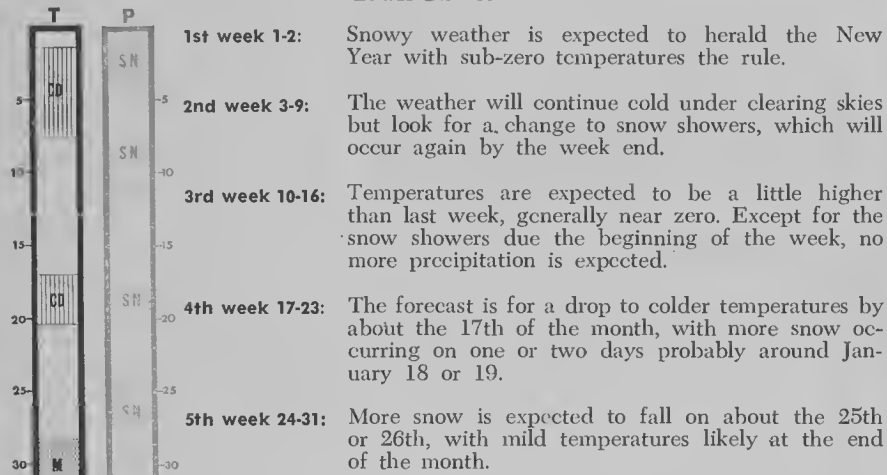
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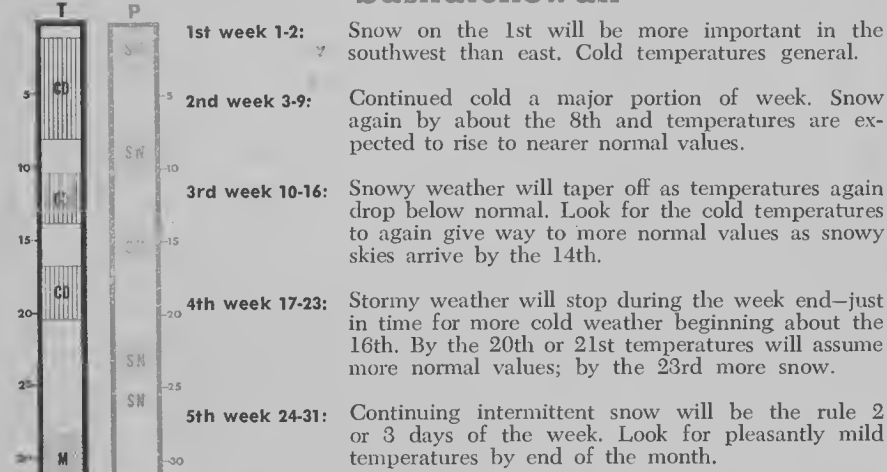
**HIGHLIGHTS, January 1960:** Although southern border portions of the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia will register temperature averages near normal, look for the remaining portions of Canada to record temperatures below the usual. Temperatures in the vicinity of Hudson Bay will be considerably below normal. On the other hand, moisture conditions will vary rather widely throughout Canada. Look for more than the usual moisture in the Maritime Provinces; below-normal in the Great Lakes, northern Quebec and northern British Columbia. Precipitation will be about normal elsewhere.

(Allow a day or two either way in using this forecast. It should be 75 per cent right for your area, but not necessarily for your farm.—ed.)

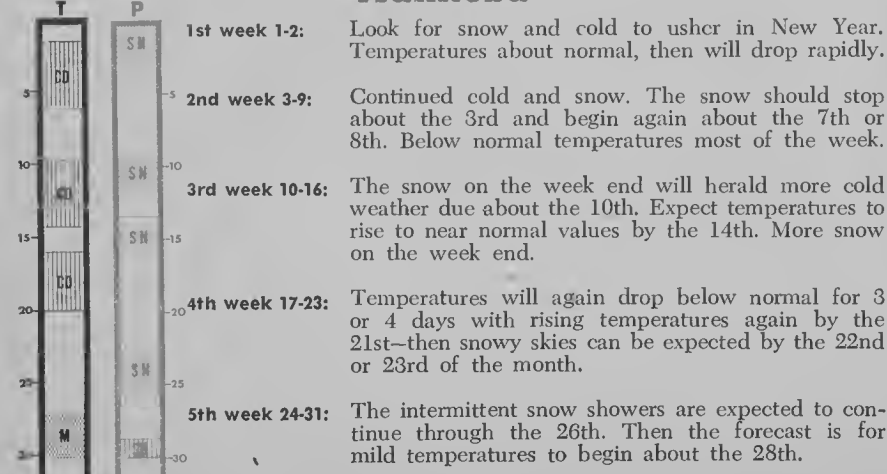
## Alberta



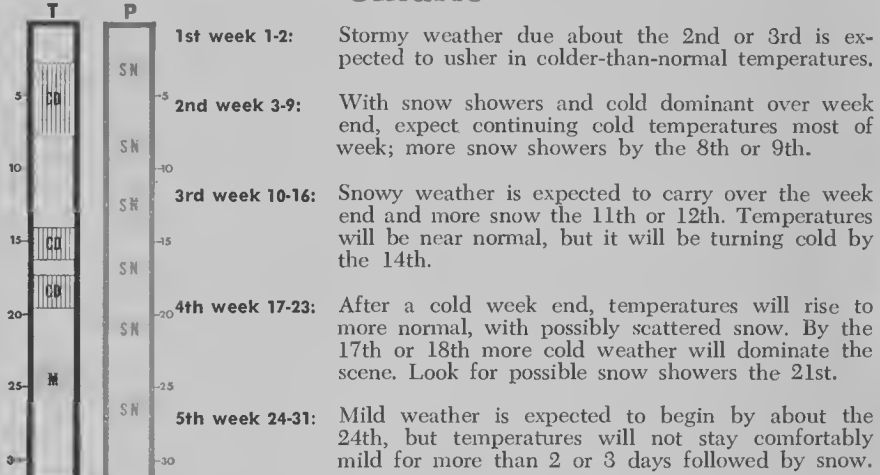
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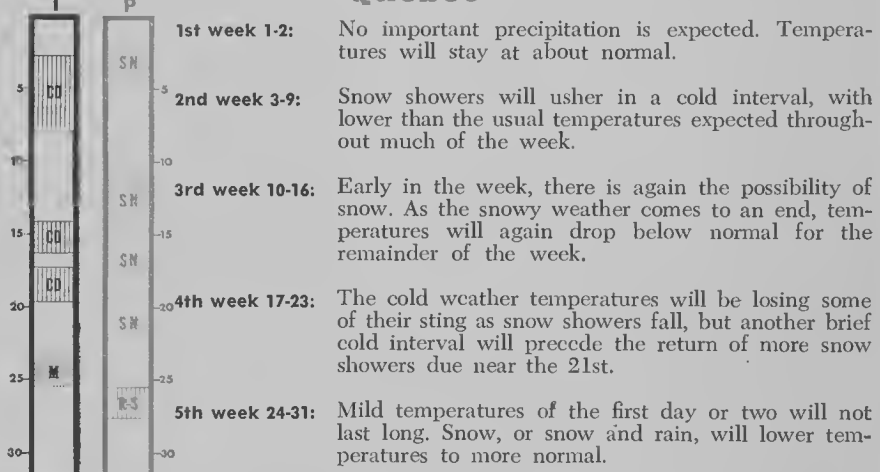
## Manitoba



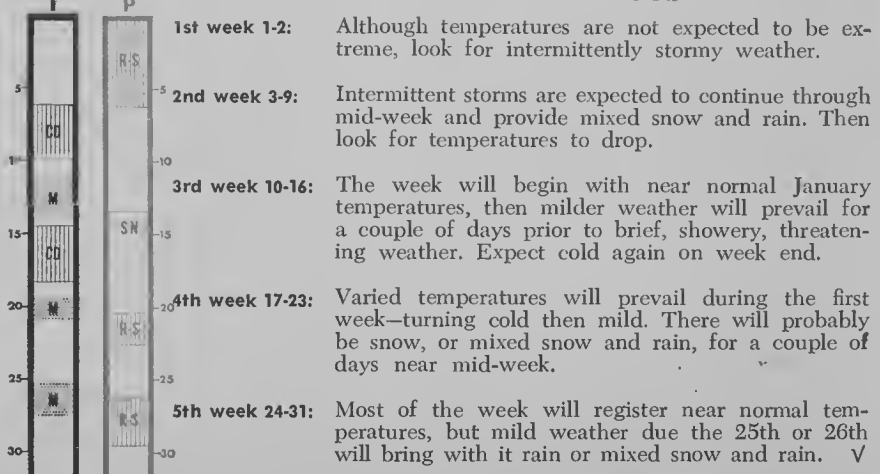
## Ontario



## Quebec



## Atlantic Provinces



# What's Happening

## CROP AID FOR PRAIRIE FARMERS

Prime Minister Diefenbaker has outlined the Government's proposals for assistance to Prairie grain farmers whose crops are unharvested on account of the weather. The four points of the plan are as follows:

- Payments of up to \$3 per acre, with a maximum of \$600 per farmer, where he has been unable to harvest 50 per cent or more of his crop. Payments would be shared equally by the Federal and provincial governments.
- Payments under the Prairie Farm Assistance Act to be speeded up in areas where the crop appears to be a total loss. PFAA payments are up to \$4 per acre.
- Legislation will be introduced early in the next session of Parliament to provide guarantees by the Federal Government of bank loans on unthreshed grain.

• Parliament will be asked also to approve the extension of the existing program of cash advances on farm-stored grain to cover unthreshed grain in the field.

The Federal Government had previously agreed with the provinces to share equally the cost of moving hay and straw to needy areas.

## THE ROLE OF MARKETING BOARDS

Ontario minister of agriculture, Hon. W. A. Goodfellow, told delegates to the OFA's annual meeting that the sole intent of Ontario's marketing legislation is to enable producer groups to help farmers bargain in the face of changing conditions.

It is the government's duty to assure itself that sales methods, under any marketing plan, are above reproach, he said. He emphasized that the marketing cannot be wholly satisfactory unless there is mutual confidence between producers and processors.

In his view, marketing legislation gives the farmer freedom to bargain co-operatively for the best price he can receive for his product. He suggested that under today's economic conditions it is only through unity of purpose and action through commodity groups that farmers can hope to secure a return worthy of the skill and effort that go into production.

## URGED FARMERS TO FOSTER RESEARCH

Improvement of crops, better methods of pest control and preservation of food are important ways in which radiation may be used to aid agriculture. Dr. J. W. T. Spinks, president of the University of Saskatchewan, emphasized these points at the annual meeting of the United Grain Growers Ltd., in Saskatoon.

Dr. Spinks called for more research in the fields of radioactivity and nuclear energy to determine their best uses for mankind, not only in agriculture but in other industries.

He urged his listeners to maintain an interest in research. "In this de-

mocracy," he said, "your group has a particularly important role to play in fostering research of interest to your group, and in fostering a good public attitude toward research of all kinds."

UGG delegates took their guest speaker seriously. They passed a resolution in which they gave approval to the idea of deducting one-eighth

cent per bushel for one year only of all grain handled by the Canadian Wheat Board. The thought was that the money should be placed in a fund for research by the prairie universities on grain and associated problems of production and marketing.

## POULTRY INDUSTRY ORGANIZES FOR ACTION

In an effort to solve continuing problems of over-production and low prices, Ontario's poultry producers have organized the Poultry Producers

Council of Ontario. The council succeeds the 22-year-old Poultry Industry Committee.

The council has provided an initial budget of \$7,500. A management committee, set up in November, was directed to hire a manager and work with him in developing a suitable method of financing the new operation.

Most poultry groups are represented on the Council. These include broiler, poultry and turkey producers' associations, hatcheries, poultry processors, feed manufacturers, provin-



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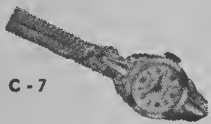
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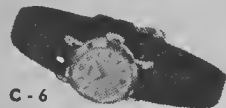
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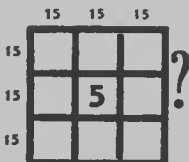
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It was a proud moment for 4-H members when one of their number was named 1959 Royal Winter Fair world wheat champion. Shown (l. to r.) are Clara Taylor, B.C., camera in hand; Juste Hendricks, B.C.; Douglas Mackintosh, of Alberta, the champion; Ruth Ash, Nfld.; Joe Young, visiting U.S. member.

cial agricultural and veterinary colleges and poultry service organizations.

### PRESENT CASE AGAINST COLORING

Manitoba's dairy farmers and processors have joined forces to present a case against factory coloring of margarine. They presented it to the one-man commission appointed by the Manitoba Government to consider the social and economic effects which would result from coloring.

The brief warned that any legislation which would tend to disrupt the dairy industry in Manitoba would also have serious repercussions on a national scale. It argued that factory coloring of margarine:

Would greatly increase margarine consumption;

Would have serious economic effects on more than half of Manitoba farmers;

Would not benefit farmers growing oilseeds for many years. Less than one-twentieth of present margarine production used Manitoba oils;

Would be of economic benefit only to those engaged in margarine manufacture, who operate a few large packing plants and soap factories in larger cities;

Would permit easy deception of the consumer; infringe on the moral copyright of butter; present enough temptation to fraud to outweigh its convenience to the housewife.

## What Farm Organizations Are Doing

### OFA DISCUSSES MARKETING BOARDS

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture at its annual meeting supported the role of government and the provincial Farm Products Marketing Board in the operation of producer marketing boards and agencies. After spirited debate a resolution was accepted, asking the government:

1. To re-affirm the principle which inspired the marketing legislation;
2. To recognize the dangers in any selling method that favored buyer interests at the expense of the producer;
3. To confirm the traditional rights of appointed selling agents, including the determination of marketing policies and the choice of a selling method that their principals consider in their best interests as a whole.

Delegates agreed to a fourth clause introduced at the meeting. It asks that local boards be given the authority to exercise production controls; that they estimate production on the basis of demand for the product; and that this authority be granted only when approved by the majority of the producers concerned.

The meeting asked for recognition of premium quality in eggs. It requested the Canada Department of

Agriculture to establish "Quality Large," "Quality Medium" and "Quality Small" as a premium grade above the present Grade A large, medium and small. The same resolution asked that the "break-out" test, or an equally satisfactory method, for determining this premium quality be made mandatory under Canadian egg grading standards.

Another resolution called for a conference of commodity groups and co-operatives. This conference would seek ways and means of establishing national marketing boards and planning orderly production. They would consider setting the amounts of major agricultural products required to meet consumer demand; giving authority over these products to commodity groups working through the marketing act; and, granting quotas to individual farmers by marketing contracts through the commodity groups.

It was agreed to set up a Commodity Group and Co-operative Department within the OFA that would:

- Encourage the formation of strong, well-financed commodity groups and co-operatives under national and provincial legislation;

- Encourage closer working arrangements between marketing boards and

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co-operatives to strengthen producer control of product, and to prevent duplication of facilities;

• Encourage increasing use of the experience and services of United Co-operatives of Ontario for farmer-owned marketing business in association with commodity groups.

Greatly increased appropriations to agricultural colleges and agricultural economics departments for farm marketing research by federal and provincial governments were also requested.

### CFA ASKS CHANGES IN REGULATIONS

Amendments to both the Customs Tariff and Excise Tax Acts that would remove import duty and sales tax from a number of items used by farmers have been requested by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

The Federal Government was asked to free such items as fencing; poultry and livestock feeders and waterers; metal storage facilities for grain, hay and silage; steel stanchions for confinement of livestock; livestock scales; farm wagons, trailers and sleds; beekeepers' supplies; vitamins, antibiotics and chemicals for livestock and mixed feeds; pumping equipment; internal combustion engines and electric motors; attachments for portable power units; special equipment used by fruit and vegetable growers; and a variety of other items used in farm operations.

The CFA brief said that the removal of these items from import duty and sales tax would help farmers who are caught in today's cost-price squeeze. V

### MAN. READIES FOR FREIGHT RATE BATTLE

S. E. Ransom, president of the Manitoba Federation of Agriculture, has urged a strong, united stand by all Manitoba citizens before the Royal Commission on Transportation. He pointed out that "the first hearings in Eastern Canada have brought several attacks on the Crow's Nest rates on grain and there is a real danger that the railways and eastern interests will try to turn the commission into an attack on grain rates alone, in an attempt to divert attention from the serious burdens which are imposed on the Prairies."

His organization has already held a meeting of interested farm groups in the province to co-ordinate the

preparation of briefs to present to the commission. V

### PROTEST RESTRICTIONS ON JAPANESE IMPORTS

A formal protest against the growing number of restrictions on imports of Japanese goods into Canada was presented to Finance Minister Fleming by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. Speaking for Canada's farmers, the statement said in part:

"It is a matter of great concern to the farmers of Canada, and especially to the agriculture of Western Canada, that there has been a growing development of restrictions on Canada's imports into Canada from Japan. In a period of lagging agricultural trade in the world — and with few signs on the horizon that in general, overseas markets for farm products are going to expand greatly, we find that Japan is one of the few bright spots. Not only has Japan become our second best customer for wheat, and an important customer for other agricultural products, but it is an expanding market.

"As a wheat exporting nation with very serious problems of surplus production capacity, Canada simply cannot afford to jeopardize obtaining as much of this expanding market as it possibly can. Continued action against Japanese imports is bound to adversely affect our opportunity for exporting to that country—particularly in a product like wheat. . . ."

The CFA did not in principle oppose the use of a quota system on imports from time to time. It did point to the danger that quotas might go too far in protecting particular segments of industry.

Three recommendations were offered for government consideration:

1. That Japan should not be asked to establish quotas except in cases where it is clear that severe damage threatens particular groups of employees and particular businesses.

2. That it should be made clear to Canadian industries that the purpose is not to guarantee permanent markets, but to ease a process of adjustment if this is necessary.

3. That it should be made clear to Japan that we appreciate the action they have already taken in regard to quotas, and that we firmly intend to permit and encourage a regular and substantial expansion of Japanese trade with this country. V

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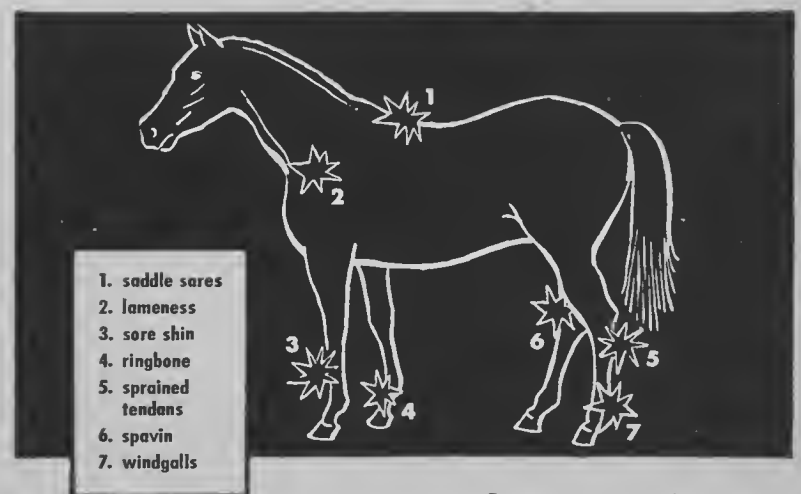
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Grain drying has come to the fore since the weather gave Western farmers the worst harvest season in years. A round-up of facts about grain dryers is on page 17 of this issue. The dryer illustrated above is a large batch type with 585-bushel capacity and a system for circulating the drying grain.

# IMPERIAL BANK

## OF CANADA

Condensed 85th Annual Statement

October 31, 1959

### ASSETS

Cash resources.....	\$ 152,670,964
Securities and call loans.....	277,813,297
Total quick assets.....	\$ 430,484,261
Loans.....	490,421,967
N.H.A. mortgages.....	55,456,875
Bank premises.....	17,742,850
Letters of credit and other assets.....	17,401,593
	<u>\$1,011,507,546</u>

### LIABILITIES

Deposits.....	\$ 934,959,671
Letters of credit and other liabilities.....	21,348,216
Total liabilities to the public.....	\$ 956,307,887
Capital, rest and undivided profits.....	55,199,659
	<u>\$1,011,507,546</u>

### STATEMENT OF EARNINGS

Profits after making transfers to inner reserves and after income taxes \$3,966,000 ...	\$ 3,691,174
Dividends.....	2,237,259
	<u>\$ 1,453,915</u>
Undivided profits brought forward.....	1,718,401
	<u>\$ 3,172,316</u>
Transfer to rest account.....	1,600,000
Balance of undivided profits.....	<u>\$ 1,572,316</u>

### STATEMENT OF REST

Balance October 31, 1958.....	\$ 32,000,000
Transfer from undivided profits.....	1,600,000
Premium on capital stock subscription.....	6,620,507
Balance October 31, 1959.....	<u>\$ 40,220,507</u>

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General Manager

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9264

# GUIDEPOSTS

## UP-TO-DATE FARM MARKET FORECASTS

**KEEP BARLEY** moving to market. Drought combined with high level of livestock production in Europe has opened up new sales possibilities.

**PRAIRIE CROPS** suffered mainly quality losses this fall on account of bad weather. The bushel loss will be quite small if normal dry spring weather prevails.

**SLIGHTLY FIRMER BROILER PRICES** can be expected. Production will level off some this year as the industry takes stock of recent low returns.

**PROSPECTS FOR FARM WHEAT STOCKS:** Not all will be marketed this season despite some recent optimistic statements, unless, and this is unlikely, most of the crop now in the fields is lost. Keep pressing your supplies on your elevator agent.

**BEST ADVICE ON FLAX** seems to be steady marketings during the winter and spring. Prices are settling into levels at which the commodity will move on international markets.

**WORLD BUTTER PRICES** have improved markedly. The Canadian Government has already unloaded some stocks because of shortages in Europe, and more will likely follow. With production declining and pressure off storage stocks, support prices can be held. Deficiency payments are a possibility however.

**OATS MARKET** has strengthened some this fall and exports will likely be larger than last year's, which were very small. Make sure you keep enough to look after your livestock program.

**WINTER WHEAT PRICES** have climbed nearly a quarter higher than a year ago and could increase more before the season is over. This reflects the production of only half a crop in Ontario.

**DRY SKIM MILK STOCKS**, a monumental problem a few months ago, are down to working levels again and prices should start moving up.

**RYE PRICES** are picking up a bit. North American supplies are dwindling and fall rye plantings in this country are reduced due to the wet fall. But even these strong crutches are not having a big effect.

**CONSUMER FOOD DEMAND** will remain strong next year in keeping with the trend throughout most of the Western World. People have money in their pockets and will part with it for good food.

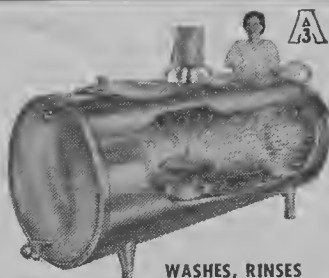
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# Changing Attitude to Price Supports?

**T**HE era may be over when government price assistance programs are considered to be the primary means of solving the farm income problem. This was the most significant impression gained by this observer at the annual Federal-Provincial Agricultural Conference held in Ottawa in late November.

The conference is called each year to review the current farm situation and outlook, and to discuss questions of farm policy. It brings together the federal and provincial ministers of agriculture, their senior officials, and representatives of the farm organizations—the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the Interprovincial Farm Union Council.

A year end review of the agricultural situation in 1959 is contained in an article in this issue beginning on page 13. It will be followed in the January Guide with an analysis of the farm outlook for 1960. Hence, this account of the Conference will deal almost exclusively with farm policy.

The first indication that price supports have been overrated as a way of assuring farmers a fair share of the national income came from the Federal Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. D. S. Harkness. In reviewing the events of the past year, the Minister stated: "The great problem with price supports is to provide the needed help to the farmer, but to do so in a way which will not serve as an incentive to produce beyond the capacity to market the product in Canada or in foreign countries."

Mr. Harkness conceded that the method of support by purchase, at the price levels in effect, created troublesome surpluses of skim milk powder, hogs and eggs. As it was impossible to market unlimited quantities of these products, changes had to be made in the method of support.

During the year the Government reduced the price support on skim milk powder (spray process) from 15¢ to 10¢ a lb., and it was announced that purchases of this product would cease on September 30. In an effort to maintain the price to the farmer for milk going into manufacturing, the Government has been making a flat payment of 25¢ per cwt.

The troublesome surpluses of eggs and hogs led the Government to change from the purchase to the deficiency payment method of support for these two products. In addition, the hog price support was lowered from \$25 to the mandatory level of \$23.65 per cwt., effective September 30. And while it is true that deficiency payment programs for these two products are designed to give the majority of Canadian producers the announced support prices, and to reduce production, it is also true that farm income from the sale of these products will be lower. The Minister himself, in commenting on the prospective farm income situation in 1960, cited the expected decline in marketings of hogs and perhaps eggs, as reasons for farm income being lower in 1960 than in 1959.

**I**N spite of the Government's desire to maintain relatively high price supports, it has had to yield to the pressure of oversupply, and to change its methods of support drastically. The result will undoubtedly be reflected to some extent at least in lower farm income.

The following conclusions as to what farmers might expect from the Government's price assistance program in future may be drawn from the Minister of Agriculture's defense of his policy before the Conference.

1. The prime objective of the program is to stabilize farm prices.

2. The program will also be used in an attempt to prevent unmanageable surpluses from building up, and to discourage commercial firms from producing farm products.

3. These secondary objectives will be accomplished by making either flat payments or deficiency payments to bona fide producers, instead of supporting prices by offers to purchase.

4. Deficiency payments will be made only on top grades, and only on a limited volume of each farmer's output of such grades.

5. Farmers with large output, at least of eggs and hogs, can no longer expect any substantial degree of government price assistance.

6. The deficiency payment method of support is designed to give the bulk of the producers about the same level of support on the bulk of their top quality produce as they received under the former system of support by purchase. However, such a method will leave a substantial amount of production, both of the top grades and the other grades, without support of any kind, and subject to conditions of the open market.

For example, Mr. Harkness reported that 60,296 egg producers had registered for deficiency payments to November 17. Of this number, about 86 per cent or 51,860 producers, who hold about 42 per cent of the hens, will receive about the same price for their Grade A Large eggs as they did before. But more than 3,400 producers (about 6 per cent of those registered), with flocks of 1,000 birds or over, and who hold another 42 per cent of the hens, will not receive any support on the bulk of their output.

7. The Government intends to keep the interests of consumers in mind. Under the deficiency payment method, the consumer will get the benefit of any fall in price due to supplies exceeding market demand.

It should be noted that any reference to the change in direction of the price assistance program being in direct conflict with Government's research and farm credit policies was conspicuous by its absence.

**T**HE Canadian Federation of Agriculture, in a formal presentation to the Conference, faced squarely up to the fact that price assistance programs, in themselves, do not provide the key to income parity. Here is what the Federation said:

"In spite of price support programs, and extensive self-help efforts by farmers through their co-operatives and marketing boards, the inexorable pressure on the farmer caused by rapidly rising

productivity, and limited expansion of markets, is keeping the farming industry in trouble. Moreover, these troubles have been made considerably more acute by the special price difficulties of the wheat industry, caused by external subsidized competition and self-sufficiency policies in importing countries.

"The organizations associated together in the Canadian Federation of Agriculture do not think it is helpful for agriculture to deceive itself about the difficulty and complexity of the problems facing it. Farmers will not be placed in a reasonable position of income parity with the rest of the economy by any single solution. While extremely useful as a stabilization measure, price supports have not, and for the future do not promise to provide any high road to farm prosperity."

**T**HE position of spokesmen for the Inter-provincial Farm Union Council was in direct contrast. The Council brief suggested that, under the competitive circumstances which prevail in farming, the inevitable tendency in any period other than a very short one is toward equality between selling prices and cost of production. They concluded that the serious problem in agriculture "is not how to reduce the number of farms, but rather how, through pricing policies and marketing policy, to maintain an adequate standard of living for those who are on farms at any given point in time."

Commenting on the deficiency payment methods adopted for hogs and eggs, the IFUC warned that care must be taken to prevent it from resulting in progressively lower prices to the primary producer. The brief stated: "If the primary objective is against surplus accumulation, it will most certainly not solve the already difficult income problem of the farmer."

It is obvious that the IFUC hopes and expects farm price assistance programs to provide something more than stability of farm prices expected of them by the CFA.

But while the two farm organizations continue to disagree on this fundamental question, their presentations were in substantial agreement on other important matters.

Both organizations pressed for an early announcement by responsible government bodies of the assistance they were prepared to give to prairie farmers facing extreme hardship resulting from the inclement harvesting conditions which occurred this fall. In response, Mr. Harkness assured them he was (Please turn to page 50)



Hon. Douglas Harkness, Federal Minister of Agriculture, with representatives of farm organizations.

[C.D.A. photo]

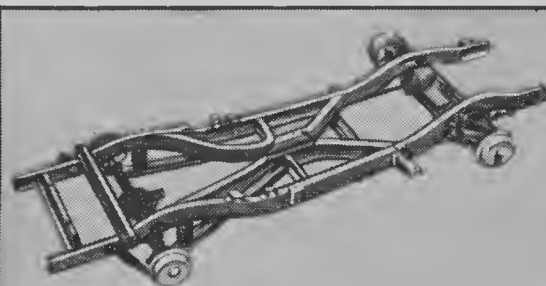


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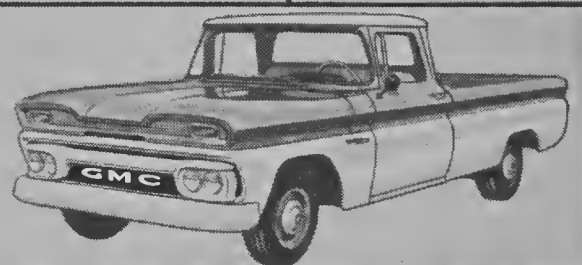


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# FAREWELL to '59

## YEAR END REVIEW

*A parting with mixed feelings, as cash income showed a small gain but production took some cruel blows. New farm credit and crop insurance laws looked favorable, but some price support changes were disturbing*



Dr. Sol Sinclair

by **SOL SINCLAIR**

(Chairman of the Agricultural Economics Department,  
University of Manitoba)

**E**VEN in farming, miracles occur occasionally. The year 1958 was one of these occasions. Both in terms of production and prices, 1958 started out in a discouraging way. However, a change in the weather in June, and an improvement in demand (especially for livestock) later on in the year, resulted in a total agricultural production increase of 4 per cent, and a net farm income increase of 20 per cent over that of 1957. Unfortunately, our farmers cannot look forward to a repetition of that miracle in 1959.

In Western Canada the late, dry, spring delayed planting. Rains in June and July, accompanied by warm weather, compensated for this and a good crop was in prospect. However, the wet fall and early October snowfall halted the harvest and it is estimated that about a quarter of the grain crop will not be harvested before next spring. The percentages of such crops as flax, potatoes, other vegetables and oil seed crops still unharvested are even greater. For some of these the loss will be complete.

In other parts of Canada, adverse weather conditions during the growing season reduced the yield of crops such as winter wheat, apples, soft fruits, and tobacco.

In contrast, production of livestock and livestock products has been maintained or increased over 1958. The outstanding examples are hogs, eggs, poultry and turkeys. Production and marketing of these products are substantially higher than 1958.

**G**ENERALLY, agricultural prices improved in 1959 by about 2½ per cent over 1958. This factor, together with a greater volume of marketings, resulted in a total farm gross income for the first 6 months of 1959 of \$1.3 billion—3 per cent over last year's corresponding total. This rate of income will likely continue for the rest of the year with 1959 farm income probably slightly higher than 1958.

Farmers' dependence upon off-farm supplies for their production programs continues to increase. During the current year increased expenditures were made on farm machinery and repairs, fertilizer, other chemicals and labor. This increased expenditure is the result of about a 3 per cent rise in the cost of the things farmers buy, as well as an increase in the volume used. As a result, the net farm income for 1959 will be about the same as for 1958, despite the increase in gross farm income.

Our population has now exceeded the 17½ million mark, resulting in an increase in the total labor force of about 214,000 during the year. However, the farm labor force has declined in the period by 24,000. This change in our population and its structure augurs well for agriculture. An increasing domestic population provides a better market for farm products. The further decline in the number of workers in agriculture also suggests adjustments to technology in the industry—a move in the right direction.

### International Trade Developments

**C**ANADIAN international trade shows further increases in 1959. During the first 9 months of this year our imports rose by 11 per cent and reached a value of \$4¼ billion. Our exports, at \$3¾ billion, however, rose only by 3 per cent. The result is an import balance in excess of \$500 million, 2½ times greater than what it was at this time last year.

Part of this export decline resulted from a drop in farm commodity exports. In the first half of the current year agricultural exports amounted to \$605 million, a decrease of 4 per cent below the exports of the corresponding period last year. This decline, which has continued into the third quarter, is accounted for mainly through the lower exports of wheat and cattle.

**Free Trade Areas.** The year 1959 marks a number of international events of importance to Canadian agriculture. The European Economic Community (EEC), which establishes a substantial free trade arrangement among six European nations, becoming a reality on January 1. Negotiations among the seven nations lying on the outer fringe of the EEC, commonly referred to as the "Outer Seven," have been going on with the object of establishing another free trade area. Similar talks are taking place among Latin American nations and among some of the Arab countries.

This tendency for the creation of free trade areas among certain groups of nations, which are deficiency producers for certain types of products, must be watched very closely by Canada. Just what impact on Canadian farm exports the EEC and the Outer Seven will have is still to be determined. However, Canada must be alert to insure that our farm commodity exports do not suffer as a result of such developments.

**Relaxing Cold War Tensions.** The visit of Premier Khrushchev to the United States, and the proposed return visit by President Eisenhower, however, appear to (Please turn to page 48)

### 1959 HIGHLIGHTS

#### INCOME

- Farm cash income up slightly — but farm net income about the same, owing to higher costs and greater use of things farmers buy.

#### PRODUCTS

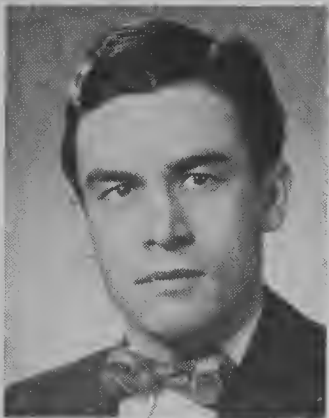
- Wheat and flour exports should be about the same as in the previous crop year. Carryover should be reduced.
- Feed grain supplies will carry livestock through winter. Lower carryover of oats and barley expected at end of crop year.
- Hog production rose sharply with \$25 support price as incentive. Surplus estimated at 160 million lb.
- Cattle prices stayed firm. Expect some moderate and seasonal price declines during 1960.
- Dairy product prices generally were steady; cheese prices improved. Butter stocks increased substantially through lower consumption.
- Egg and poultry meat prices weakened as a result of heavy production.

#### POLICY

- New crop insurance and farm credit acts were desirable moves, but there may be difficulties in administering them effectively.
- Price supports at 80 per cent of the previous 10-year average price set many farm prices at incentive levels, resulting in some surpluses. The Government's answer was to change supports from a purchasing to a deficiency system, or to reduce or eliminate price supports.
- Deficiency payments on limited production may retard needed adjustments to new techniques and marketing methods. If so, it can only prolong agriculture's difficulties.

#### TRADE

- Lower wheat and cattle exports contributed to Canada's overall unfavorable trade balance.
- Canada must maintain exports, including farm products, in face of significant political and trade developments in the world.
- The St. Lawrence Seaway should lower costs to Western farmers, but makes U.S. exports more competitive.
- The new, 3-year International Wheat Agreement should tend to stabilize wheat trading and prices.



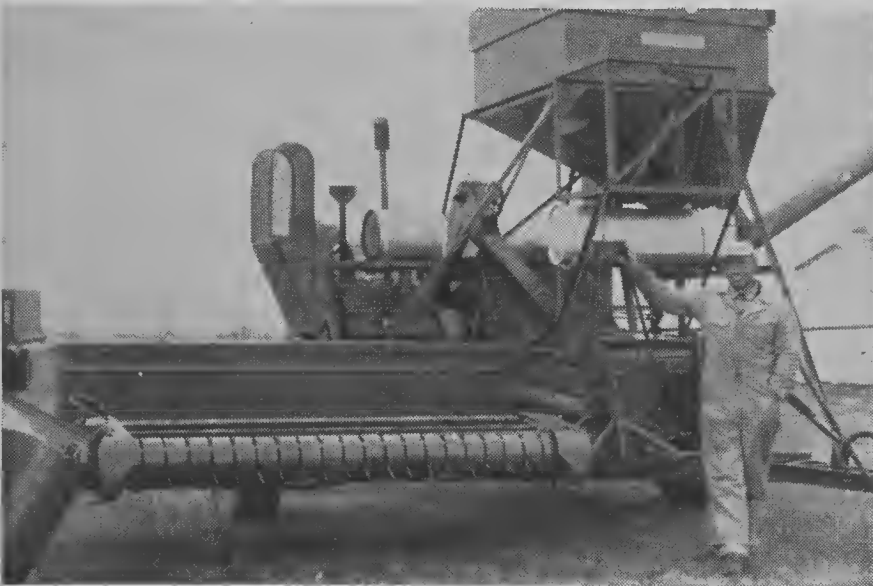
**FAMILY FARM** series by Dr. Gilson had to be reprinted to meet enthusiastic demand.



**MILK WITHOUT CANS** gave an insight into the meaning of bulk milk handling and the pipeline for Canadian farmers.



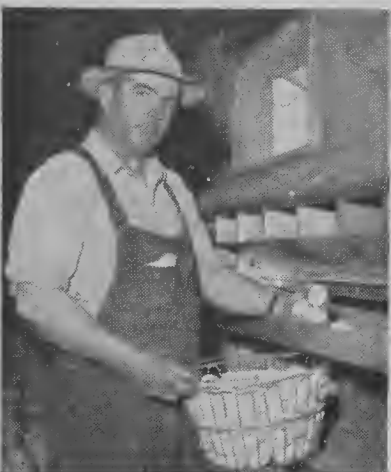
**CORN SILAGE**, "the most overlooked crop in Ontario," did well for George Robertson and father.



**MAN IN THE SQUEEZE.** Saskatchewan grain farmer Gilbert Pearson gave his views on the cost-price dilemma and how he has attempted to find the answer.



**SEAWAY TO THE WEST** took readers on a tour of the newly opened St. Lawrence Seaway and outlined some of the effects it would have on farm people.



**HENS CROWDED ON LITTER,** Ray Spring's new cost-cutting idea.



**GRASS AND ALFALFA** planted in alternate rows boosted the yield.

## IT TOOK ALL

**W**AIT A MINUTE! Do you have the feeling sometimes that things are happening too fast? What with so many new ideas to try out, and big changes in the farm scene almost every day, it's hard to remember where we have been the last 12 months. It might help to recall some highlights of 1959 as they were recorded in *The Guide*.

It turned out that the *Farm Outlook* for '59, prepared by Prof. D. R. Campbell, gave a remarkably accurate picture of what would happen. Marketing and prices continued as the number one farm problems. This was reflected in such ways as the announcement of deficiency payments on part of Canada's egg and hog production, and the Western farmers' March on Ottawa to press for payments on wheat, oats and barley.

The *Guide* also began its 1959 program with the continuation of the series on "Keeping the Farm in the Family," and a report on the big drive to root out brucellosis from Canadian herds.

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture faced up to changing times when President H. H. Hannam warned that the new era could mean the development of a "producer-directed farm economy," or the possible alternative of ending up with a "state-managed farm economy."

Farmers were quizzed about the trend to bulk tanks for milk and agreed on the whole that they were good for the industry. Nova Scotia livestock men, seeing a need for big increases in their cattle, sheep and hogs, planned a co-operative abattoir to encourage it.

Performance testing seemed to have come out of the controversial stage in 1959. The question was how far and how fast it would develop. "Staying in the Black" was a feature that placed the question squarely on the farm. In another area of animal production, "Treat



**FASHION FORECASTS** have kept the ladies in the know.



**THE QUEEN'S VISIT** to Canada made it a most memorable year.





**STAYING IN THE BLACK** meant turning to performance testing on the Van Nortwiek's family farm.



**PRAIRIE QUEEN** contest, first of its kind in Canada, awarded the crown to blue-eyed Jeanette Biesenthal of Beechy, Sask.



**A SERIAL** by John Patriek Gillese told an outdoor tale of "Ranger of Sun Dance."

# YEAR TO DO IT

Your Forage Right," brought readers up to date on the latest methods for handling "the cheapest cattle feed around."

A far-reaching event of the year was the streamlining of the Canada Department of Agriculture's research organization. This was explained in detail by the man in charge, Dr. C. H. Goulden.

A new International Wheat Agreement took steps to give a more detailed picture of wheat distribution, opened the door to efforts to increase wheat consumption, and gave the Wheat Council an opportunity to tackle the wheat trade's problems more actively.

Back on the farm, The Guide was introducing readers to what was new in weed control, and also published the year's field crop recommendations right across the country. The growing influence of American beef breeds was analyzed. There was a "Second Look at Contracting," which suggested there was little evidence that off-the-farm interests were taking over production.

Milk blending, or equalization, was a controversial topic and there was some plain speaking in that vital area of farming. Egg prices were also in the news and were considered in such articles as "Tailor-Made Eggs Bring Price Premiums." Farm credit and crop insurance legislation were two more important developments in the financial field which were assessed.

A pattern has emerged on the Prairies as better communications challenge the old system of towns. Water can be the key to a community's survival, as shown in "Water Makes a Town Grow." Another matter in the social field is the relationship between farmers and consumers, which was tackled realistically in Ontario.

Premier Khrushchev's tour of the United States aroused mixed feelings. But meanwhile a party of Canadian farmers had been to Russia and brought back impressions that had less to do with the cold war and more to do with the way Russian farm people live.

If The Guide had a theme in 1959, it was farm management. Not a ruthless efficiency, but the art of making the best use of what is available. If it left a feeling of hope, and that farmers are not entirely at the mercy of crushing outside forces, then the year was well spent. ✓



[Jim Rose photo]

**PONIES FOR FUN**, which also featured Merike Venk on the cover, told how a man's hobby of raising ponies has turned into a good way to earn a living.



**FEED IN BULK** called attention to another cost-saving development as dealers began to equip themselves for bulk deliveries straight into farmers' feed bins.



**JUSTAMERE FARM** was a new departure. Home and field editors joined forces to give a balanced picture of a family farm.



**A.I. CO-OPS** spread like wildfire in Saskatchewan during the year 1959.



**IDEAS FOR ORCHARDS** showed new methods and new varieties, like these nectarines.

## THE MCGUCKIAN SYSTEM



[Author's photos.]  
Farrowing crate has an escape on either side for little pigs and also infra red lamps in recesses.



They are moved here after first day. Sow stays in outer circle, but young pigs have warmth of inner circle. Top of barrel has opening for inspection.



Piglets are confined to the apex hut and paddock. Sow can leave the hut by stepping over 15-inch step—too high for piglets to escape onto the range. Bags are hung over the porch and between porch and hut.

# HOG BREEDING IS NO GUESSING GAME



Gerald McGuckian

*These brothers in Northern Ireland want top grades without restricted feeding*

by ROBERT SIMPSON

**"T**HERE can be no constructive and progressive pig-breeding policy without careful records and progeny testing," says Gerald McGuckian. "One can't trust to visual impressions and hunches; only records are tell-tale."

During the past 35 years Brian and Gerald McGuckian of Cloughmills, Northern Ireland, have, by trial and error, improved on existing methods of pig farming until they have a system which is known and accepted throughout the British Isles by farmers and veterinarians alike.

Since the end of the war the herd has been built up to 600 sows and approximately 6,000 followers. The herd, which is Large White and Landrace, is progeny tested throughout. Each breeding female has a herd number shown by the notches on its ears, the dam's number being tattooed on the right ear of each piglet.

Every sow's performance is recorded under the following headings: Number of pigs born; number reared; average weight at birth; average weekly gain until 8 weeks old; average age at which litter reaches bacon weight (200-210 lb.); carcass grading of the finished progeny; and food conversion.

In the herd there are 30 sows which have produced 100 per cent Grade A carcasses in four consecutive litters. On such sows the breeding policy of the herd has been based.

They have 15 boars mating in any month. Since records are kept of all matings and boars are given a cross-section of all females, each boar's ability to breed big litters with good weight gains and a high percentage of Grade A carcasses from different dams, is continually under test. Records have shown a few boars to have such ability, whatever the dam. Such animals are the keystone to overall herd improvement.

In Britain, many pig farmers have been rationing baconers, once they reach 150 lb., to 5 lb. meal per day, in an attempt to produce leaner carcasses with better grades. At Cloughmills, the McGuckians feel that is the wrong approach to producing Grade A bacon. They believe that one of the cardinal aims in breeding must be to produce baconers which grade well on *ad lib.* rations with low food conversion. In their program, overall food conversion varies from 2.5 between birth and 10 weeks to 3.5 during the finishing stages.

The McGuckians carry out weekly weighings from birth to 8 weeks. Weekly gains are essential to the progeny testing program, but more important, says Gerald McGuckian, "in weekly weighings there is a constant check on our management. Without them, we would feel completely out of touch with the progress that litters are making. No one can guess accurately enough. Breeding cannot be based on guesses."

A total of 1,200 litter weighings annually amounts to a lot of man-hours, but the brothers are convinced that the result is worth all the effort.

Litter weights at 3 weeks are regarded as the truest guide to a sow's milking ability. Records at Cloughmills show the herd average to be 130 lb. or an average of 13 lb. for a 10-piglet litter at 3 weeks. The litter that has not reached an average of 16 lb. at 6 weeks is weaned and fed completely on proprietary sow substitute compound. Experience has shown that a litter which is getting insufficient food from the sow is the least likely to feed well from the creep. Only when weaned do they start to feed avidly.

**M**ANAGEMENT is most easily understood by starting with the newly mated females. Such animals are segregated according to size and age to prevent bullying, and put out to range, housed in batches of 35 in an insulated house, with yard attached, and access to 5 acres of pasture. Two such houses are set back to back with a central feeding passage down the yard. The sows are fed into a trough over the wall.

When there is a good growth of grass the sows are fed 4 lb. balanced meal, but in winter the ration is stepped up to 7 lb. per head. During heavy rains or snow the animals are confined and fed in the yard which is sufficiently large (90 ft. by 30 ft.) to help prevent bullying.

With balanced feeding, fertility has not proved troublesome. Any sow coming back to service is taken back to the farm for mating. Dates of matings are recorded on the sow's number cards. No chaser boar is run with these sows, because any sow served a second time by him would not be recorded on the card.

The houses are permanent and the adjacent pastures have been in use for more than 20 years without a rest. Sows are moved from pasture houses into the prefarrowing pens 10-14 days before, and housed in batches (12 in 6 different pens) according to size. The weight (Please turn to page 33)



# GROW GEESE!

## Cheapest Meat for Home Freezers

by **DON BARON**

**P**EOPLE are taking another look at geese, according to hatcheryman Alvin MacDonald. "And no wonder," he suggests. "Farmers, as well as townfolk who live on small acreages, can easily grow them. They can graze 50 birds on an acre of good pasture. And they can kill, dress and freeze them right at home. It's the cheapest meat they can get. Just about the tastiest too."

MacDonald has become a real goose enthusiast. He bought his first flock of 30 from the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa 4 years ago. He set it up as a breeding unit, and bought an incubator. Customers from right across Eastern Canada come back each year for 25 or 50, or as many as 600 goslings at a time. He has expanded his flock to number 300 breeding birds. And he has sold every

gosling he has hatched so far. Now that he is sure the demand is almost unlimited for the right kind of geese, he is beginning a program to "modernize geese raising."

This young poultryman has already launched a careful breeding program to develop bigger, more attractive geese that will make still more use of pasture. Last fall, he built a new goose house as part of his modernizing program.

"People used to keep their own breeders the year round," he explains. "Now, they have tired of that. They are happy to pay \$1.25, or a little more, for a good gosling. I'm trying to provide them."

Basis of the flock at his Covehead Road, P.E.I., farm, is the Pilgrim. It is a medium-sized breed,



*[Guide photos]  
A. MacDonald with White Embden  
he uses in crossbreeding program.*

with a gleaming white carcass that is almost free from small, hard-to-pull feathers.

**G**OSLINGS hatch and are sold in April and May. MacDonald suggests that growers feed them indoors on chick starter for a few weeks. Once the goslings get out to pasture, their ration is changed to chick grower and a little oats. He recommends that growers continue to feed a little of this ration all summer. In the fall, the birds are corralled for about three weeks of full feeding to finish them. By then, geese will weigh about 10 pounds, ganders about 12. They will have eaten about two dollars' worth of feed in their lifetime.

Flavor of the bird is tied in with the breed, and with the ration too, says MacDonald. One good fattening ration consists of one part turkey fatten-er pellets, and equal parts oats, wheat, and barley. This will give a non-oily goose. Raw turnips are supposed to be good (*Please turn to page 34*)



*A flock of Pilgrim  
and African geese run  
together on the  
MacDonald farm.*

by **RICHARD COBB**

**U**SE a grain dryer if you are forced to, but be careful. That seems to be the best advice for Prairie farmers hit by a wet fall and an early winter. The emphasis is on "be careful." If grain is damaged by drying it will wind up in a rejected grade. This will mean a lower value for it, with the added cost of drying to make it even less profitable.

If a grain dryer is not used, clean the grain thoroughly. Store it in small bins so it can be examined frequently and turned easily. Mix with dry grain, if damp grain has 18 per cent moisture or less. By bringing the mixture to 16 per cent, you can store it safely through next summer, or even longer. Grain with more than 18 per cent moisture is not safe to store.

The main hot air drying systems are known as recirculating batch, batch and continuous flow. Here are some details:

**Recirculating batch**, the most widely used system now, has the grain in motion during the drying process. Models suitable for farms or small co-operatives handle 100 to 250 bushels per hour. According to Charles Cheshire, Alberta extension engineer, fuel cost is  $\frac{2}{3}$ ¢ to 2¢ per bushel, including propane or fuel oil for the burner, and gas or diesel fuel for the tractor or engine to drive the unit.

**Batch drying** means the grain is in stationary layers and hot air is forced through it. About 50 bushels at 19 per cent moisture can be dried in an hour.

**Continuous flow** means that grain moves continuously from inlet to outlet air passages. It is not exposed to the hottest air for long. Prof. H. M. Lapp, University of Manitoba, reports that this system is the fastest and reduces the danger of

### What You Should Know

## ABOUT GRAIN DRYING

overheating. However, it is the most expensive to buy.

Misuse of grain dryers does more harm than good. This is especially true of the milling grades of wheat, which may look well enough, even after their baking qualities are ruined. Much of the trouble comes from drying too quickly. The key to proper drying is to use correct hot air temperatures and not to allow the grain's moisture content to drop too far. The Board of Grain Commissioners' recommendations are as follows:

**Milling wheat**, grades higher than No. 5. Moisture should not go below 13.5 per cent; temperature of hot air not above 135°F. in batch drying, 160° in the continuous flow system.

**Malting barley**, higher than No. 1 feed. Farm drying is not advocated, but if unavoidable, hold moisture level at not less than 13.8 per cent; temperature of hot air not above 110° before it enters the grain.

**Lower grades and other grains.** Moisture not to be more than 1 per cent greater than minimum levels for straight grains; hot air not above 180°.

**Seed grain.** Avoid farm drying if possible, but if not, be particularly careful not to overdry. Hot air should not exceed 110°. Have seed tested for germination.

To be on the safe side, stay below the recommended temperatures when drying grain.

The primary consideration for every grain farmer is to keep export markets intact by not

allowing damaged grain to ruin Canada's reputation. The Grain Commissioners' laboratory has set up a testing service to safeguard the quality of Canadian wheat. Any farmer who submits a sample taken before drying, and a sample from the same batch taken after drying, will be told whether his drying system is doing the job properly.

**A**N important point to watch is that fans are adequate to use the heating capacity of the dryers. Run them at the speed recommended by the manufacturers. Some dryer fans have adjustable blades, but adjustments should be made carefully.

Grain-moving equipment should be able to keep pace with the dryer's capacity. It often pays to use equipment built for the dryer rather than portable elevators or augers already on the farm.

The Saskatchewan Agricultural Machinery Administration has tested five commercial dryers to establish their costs of operation, capacities and abilities to dry grain safely. Grain was run at 19 per cent moisture through recirculating and batch dryers. Farmers or groups intending to buy dryers should find the results helpful.

Not all the damp grain has to be dried on the farm. The Canadian Wheat Board has given priority to shipments of damp grain delivered within the quotas. Space has been set aside at Saskatoon and Edmonton terminals for grain that is out of condition. Also, dryers will be working to capacity at the Lakehead throughout the winter. V

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## They FARM TROUT in B.C.

*These prime, rapid gainers would top the list in any performance test, and they come equipped with scales*



*A hungry rainbow trout breaks the surface almost before the pellet drops.*

**I**F you're tired of tramping along rivers and streams where trout are becoming as rare as whooping cranes, call in on Holiday Haven Trout Farms at Yahk, B.C., and feast your eyes (or your stomach) on the biggest weight-for-age rainbows in the country.

If your main object is food, you can dip them out of wooden tanks by net without having to keep a weather eye cocked for the local game warden. For those who like a little sport before dinner, there's an 800-foot pool a-building where you can angle for them in the time-honored fashion.

Holiday Haven Trout Farms is a unique enterprise in Canada because many provinces have legislation forbidding private individuals from breeding game fish. The idea of trout raising came to Ed Brenner (a Calgarian who used to be project manager for Mannix Construction Ltd.) when he read about a successful commercial trout farm in a financial magazine. Later, he had a talk with a Japanese importer who told him that something like 500,000 metric tons of Japan-reared frozen rainbows are marketed on this Continent yearly, and the demand is growing apace. It didn't take too much to figure that fresh trout, rushed into nearby markets, would be snapped up as fast as they could be produced.

**B**RENNER interested four other Calgarians in the idea, and they thought of locating at Red Deer, midway between the two big city markets of Edmonton and Calgary. But Alberta laws prohibit trout raising and it's doubtful whether they could find water with the ideal (50°F) temperature there. After searching through several valleys in southern B.C., Ed found what he was looking for at Kingsgate Corner, where the southern provincial highway branches for Kootenay Lake and Spokane.

Here big wells were found with a water table only 13 feet below the surface, and where the water stays near the desired temperature all year round. This would insure rapid and continuous growth of the fish, which is important when you're raising them with a cash crop in mind.

At first, Brenner and his partners figured they'd need about 100 acres for their fish hatchery. But land taxes being high even at Kingsgate Corner, they decided they could get along with only 5 acres. This was accomplished by building outdoor wooden flumes, 720 feet long and 10 feet wide, compartmented in such a way they would act as self-sizers. Hatching and rearing of small fry is done in a small frame building adjacent to the flumes.

**H**OLIDAY Haven Farms hatches 200,000 trout eggs a month. These come from fish farms in southern Idaho, and are of a special strain of pure rainbow trout. The fish are fed a highly concentrated, complete ration which comes in pellet form, and 2,000 pounds of trout consume 10 pounds of this every day. The farm is gauged to produce 50 tons of choice rainbow a month.

Chef's favor pan-sized trout about 9 inches long, which generally weigh around 8 ounces apiece. But the trout at Holiday Haven grow very rapidly because there are no cold water periods to retard them. Many reach 13 inches, and run as much as 20 ounces in weight. These are sold to folks who like to wrap their fish in tinfoil and bake them in an oven.

Most of the farm's production is destined for Calgary, although some are sent as far east as Winnipeg. Packed in ice, the rainbows can reach the foothills city in prime condition in 6 hours by truck. If they're going any further, they must travel by air. About



*Ed Brenner tossing pellets into one of the rainbows' tanks at Yahk, B.C.*

by **CLIFF FAULKNER**

100 pounds a day are sold locally, or to tourists passing through.

Whether you scoop them, or angle them, Holiday Haven's rainbows will cost you about \$1.50 a pound. If you think this is a lot to pay for fish, add up what it costs you to work the open lakes and streams. There's your tackle, waders, net, traveling and in some cases, boat and outboard. A sportsman once compared all this against his catch and found his fish cost him \$70 a pound.

"As far as this place goes," said Ed Brenner, "I'd sooner see the adults scoop their fish from the tanks, and let the kids do the line fishing. We have 500 people around here on a Sunday sometimes."

In case you're still inclined to look on fish raising as a hobby, take a look at the southeastern United States where fish and rice are an accepted part of many crop rotation programs. For 2 years rice is grown, then the field is flooded to a depth of 4 feet at the deepest point. As soon as flooding is complete, the field is stocked with fish — either eating or ornamental varieties. Successful "fish farmers" report that an acre of water will produce just as much meat as an acre of grass.

### Christmas Calf



*Daisy the Jersey heifer was born on Christmas morning, and a year later she's still a great favorite of the Henitiuk family of North Star, Alta.*

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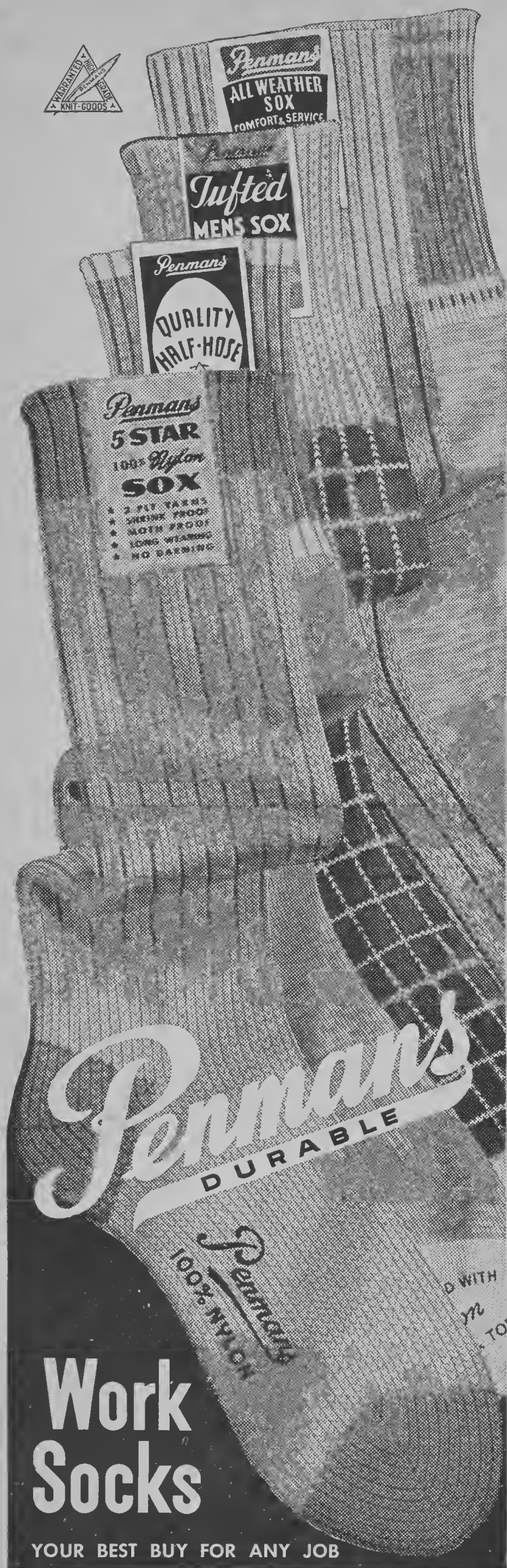
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# Through Field and Wood

by CLARENCE TILLENIUS—No. 15



## Sure-Footed Mountaineers

**D**ARKEST of Canadian wild sheep, the black Stone ram shares the Bighorn's fondness for rough, tough country. Northern B.C. is his territory, and when we traveled in that country we naturally looked for sheep. Yet even when in the right country you don't always see them. Perseverance pays, though, here as everywhere.

Our path finally led us to Mile 462 on the Alaska Highway, to the Highland Glen Cabins and the genial owners, Jim and Betty Grant. Jim Grant looks (and believes himself to be) a dour Scot, rock-ribbed and flinty. Those familiar with the race of Burns will at once recognize in this description a national weakness: namely, warm hospitality and a generous heart. Hospitality unbounded we had from the Grants and through Jim's kindness I later received the craggy horns carried by the Stone ram in the accompanying drawing.

Called the "black" sheep, the Stone is really brownish-black or a dark gunmetal gray, face lighter in color toward the nose, the back of each leg, belly and rump patch whitish, tail dark. The massive, flaring horns of an old master ram make as fine a trophy as hunter can covet.

A curious natural phenomenon appears in the landscape drawn behind the ram's head. Along the Trout River, traveling away from Muncho Lake, a number of high, whitish cliffs project above the forest. The mineral clay of these cliffs has an overpowering attraction for the wild sheep. From top to bottom the cliffs are honeycombed with holes and shallow caves licked out by generation after generation of sheep gathering here. We should have liked to examine a large cave high up, but the steep slope, slick as wet soap, defied attempts to climb.

Rain poured down as we slithered and slid in the greasy clay along the cliff's lower edge, hoping devoutly

no alarmed sheep above would slip and tumble down the slopes to knock us into the river churning below. However, after a few years watching these mountaineers negotiating one frightful precipice after another, the last thing one imagines is a mountain sheep losing its footing. V

## Play It Safe When Spraying Cattle

**M**ANY agricultural sprays can be dangerous if inhaled, or if they come in contact with the skin. Here, R. H. Painter, Lethbridge Experimental Farm, demonstrates the best method of applying Co-Ral, a systemic insecticide for the control of cattle grubs. Mr. Painter recommends a sprayer which delivers about 400 lb. per square inch so as to completely soak the animal and reduce spray wastage. To protect the operator, he advises a complete rubber outfit including coat, pants, gloves, boots and goggles. These should be thoroughly washed after each use. Inhaled through the skin, systemic insecticides can seriously upset your muscular coordination by attacking the nervous system.—C.V.F. V



(Guide photo)

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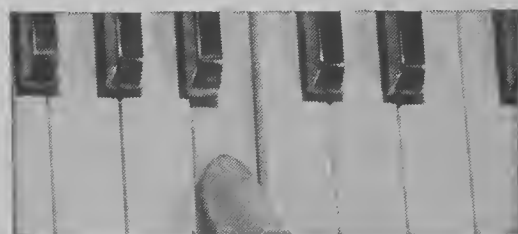
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## Fatten Light Lambs

*Sheepmen are catching on to the profits they can mean*

EVIDENCE is piling up that some of the easiest money to be made with sheep comes from feeding small or late lambs to a market finish.

John Butler, manager of the Ontario Government's Demonstration Farm at New Liskeard, Ont., is one of the newest converts. District farmers have a sheep club through which they ship lambs to Toronto each fall for sale on rail grade. Some of the small underfinished ones haven't been bringing enough to cover the cost of transportation. It was lambs like these that Butler used.

He bought 33 of them on December 8 last year and fed them anywhere from 6 to 15 weeks. He made a tidy margin over feed costs of \$179, an average of \$5.43 per lamb.

Even without grain, lambs will make remarkable growth and finish on good fall pasture. It's one big advantage they have over steers, suggests W. H. J. Tisdale, executive officer of Canadian Co-op Wool Growers.

For instance, sheepman Oscar Daigle bought 280 lambs last fall that would normally be shipped off to the packers at rock-bottom prices. In early October he put them onto second growth clover at his Edmundston, N.B., farm, for a month or more. They gained from one-third to one-half pound per day. His margin was over \$3 per lamb—a pretty good argument in favor of finishing lambs properly.

OVER in Nova Scotia, Dave and Don Bowlby, who had more grass than their 70-ewe flock could eat, tried a similar program. In mid-September, the boys bought 40 lambs, averaging 65 lb. each, from a sheepman who was short of pasture. They fattened them on a field of alfalfa. By November 1 the lambs had been sold.

The need for finishing more of Canada's lambs is pointed up by the recently released report of the Sheep



Part of the ewe flock on the Ontario demonstration farm at New Liskeard.



J. Butler fed 33 light lambs from 6 to 15 weeks. He made \$179 margin over feed cost.

Industry Survey Committee. It noted that a high proportion of Eastern Canada's lambs are sold light and underfinished. They bring low prices themselves and depress prices on better grade lambs too.

The committee reported that close to 30 per cent of all lambs in the Maritimes go to market underfinished. Even in parts of the West, where a substantial lamb feeding program has been carried on for years, many lambs are sold before they are ready.

At the New Liskeard farm, Butler kept a careful record of his profitable operation. The lambs weighed from 45 to 85 lb. when he bought them. He paid 15 cents a pound, a total cost of \$342.50.

First, he wormed each lamb with a phenothiazine bolus. He fed them twice a day, on a ration of 300 lb. cracked corn, 300 lb. rolled oats, 75 lb. molasses, 200 lb. oilcake pellets, and 200 lb. bran. Salt was added, and hay was offered to the lambs.

They ate \$96.65 worth of grain, and \$30 worth of hay. When he put them through the local sales barn, where they were usually bought by local butchers, they brought an average of 20 cents a pound, for a total of \$648.23.

The profit picture looks so good on finishing up those lambs, that the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture is advising sheepmen that if they can't finish lambs themselves, to get out and look for someone who can. — D.R.B. ✓

## Vitamin A In Winter Feeding

VITAMIN A deficiency is frequently a problem among cattle during the long winter stabling period. The answer is an adequate ration of good leafy hay and silage as part of the normal ration, which can prevent the condition from becoming a problem later, according to the Ontario Veterinary College.

This deficiency is most likely to occur in cattle under 2 years old, and especially in calves going through their first winter. Cows in calf during the stabling period may abort or bear weak, dead or blind calves as a result of lack of vitamin A. The most common symptoms in older calves and young cows are night blindness and unthriftiness. Animals may often have less resistance to respiratory diseases.

Green leafy alfalfa and good silage are the common feeds for supplying an adequate amount of vitamin A. ✓

## Beef Carcass Comparison at Winnipeg

	Average Live Weight	Dressing	Choice	Good	Gain Per Day
Implants	1,040 lb.	57.2%	96 %	4 %	3.5 lb.
Controls	981 lb.	56.7%	55.5%	44.5%	3.0 lb.

A GROUP of 54 Charolais-Hereford steers were slaughtered and inspected at Winnipeg recently. All were owned by John Minor of Abbey, Sask., and all had been on feed for 102 days in a feedlot near Calgary. But half were treated with Synovex 2 or 27 hormone implants.

Above is a comparison between treated and untreated steers.

Senior livestock grader F. A. Bowman reported that conformation of the cattle was excellent, particularly in rump and round sections. Loins were good but not outstanding, with ribs and chucks about the same. The cattle carried a minimum of finish for the grades, with interior finish very slight. Beef was somewhat darker than is desirable. The area of rib-eye was exceptionally good. There was a suggestion that such cattle should be put on feed earlier to reach a higher finish at desirable slaughter weights. ✓

## Stinkweed In Cattle Feed

UNDESIRABLE odors in meat are one reason why beef carcasses are condemned at packing plants. Why do they occur? It appears that weed seeds, such as stinkweed fed in refuse screenings right up to slaughter, may leave an objectionable odor or flavor.

Tests at the Lethbridge Experimental Farm, Alta., and at Vancouver, involving 44 yearling steers, showed that 9 of 12 steers slaughtered immediately off screenings containing a high proportion of stinkweed, had a slight to strong odor in the carcasses. There were no objectionable odors in the carcasses of animals that were off screenings 24, 48 and 96 hours before slaughter. Two animals slaughtered immediately off screenings, and one held off screenings for 48 hours, had off-flavors in the meat when cooked. ✓

## Feeder Cattle Need Some Shelter



Former light-heavyweight champion Pahara farms near Lethbridge, Alberta.



John Pahara's shelter for livestock.

JOHN PAHARA of Lethbridge, Alta., has always believed that feeder cattle will gain better if well protected from biting winter winds. Using ideas culled from feedlots in Western Canada and the U.S., John has built a huge semi-circular shelter, which gives protection from the prevailing north and west winds.

The building is 456 ft. long, 40 ft. wide and 18 ft. high at the apex of the roof. Hay is stacked along the outer wall. A central driveway through the building will enable John to unload grain, beet pulp or silage into the long feed trough mechanically. Concrete footings were poured with a homemade mixer, plans of which were taken from The Country Guide.

The type of feed depends on what is available at what John considers

is the "right" price. When the cost of beet pulp goes too high, he switches back to oats and barley.

"Pulp is a good supplement," he agreed, "but it's no better than grain. In fact, the best steers sold off my place have been grain fed."

Most of the hay and about half the grain are produced on the Pahara farm.—C.V.F. ✓



Feed troughs will run along base of hay stacked by the central driveway.





## Tips on Barn Ventilation

**T**HE ventilation system in a dairy barn should do four things—bring in fresh air, remove odors, control temperature and remove moisture. These results can all be achieved by a mechanical system, says Prof. H. M. Lapp, University of Manitoba. It gives positive ventilation in spite of outside temperature, and its operation is controlled by a thermostat inside the barn.

The most air is needed to remove moisture, but it varies with the outside temperature. Less air is required during cold temperatures than in mild weather. Air requirements may range from 25 to 150 cubic feet per minute for each animal unit (1,000 lb. of animal weight).

For mechanical ventilation, locate the fan on the downwind side of building. Place it at a convenient height in the wall, preferably 5 feet. Keep it a minimum of 10 feet from the inlet areas, doorways and windows. Place it close to the greatest number of cattle. Have a vapor barrier on the inside surface of the wall.

Professor Lapp recommends a fresh air inlet of 16 square inches per 1,000 lb. of animal. As an example, leakage around a poorly fitting door gives about 32 square inches. No inlet should exceed 64 square inches. Locate inlets close to all corners to maintain air movement and prevent moisture condensing on corner walls. ✓

## Calf Sucking

**T**RY to stop calves from sucking each other. This habit can distort young udders and may even persist after the heifers have developed and come into production. The best solution to calf sucking is to have an individual pen for each. If that is not possible, leave the calves tied for a time after pail feeding and give them some dry feed in the pail. ✓

## Play It Safe



T.O.A.C. photo

Oops! Here's an unlucky dairyman who forgot that it pays to scatter sand on icy spots around the milk house.

## New Way To Freeze Milk

**A**FTER special treatment, milk can be frozen and will stay fresh for 18 months. When thawed out it returns to its natural state without any change in condition or taste. This frozen milk is now being produced commercially in Britain.

The new process is to treat the milk with ultrasonic vibrations before freezing. This prevents such disadvantages as the fat separating out in a greasy condition when it is thawed.

Known as "Frosonic," the frozen milk has opened an export business for Britain in Africa, the Middle East, Far East and South America. ✓

## Best Feed For Cows in Winter

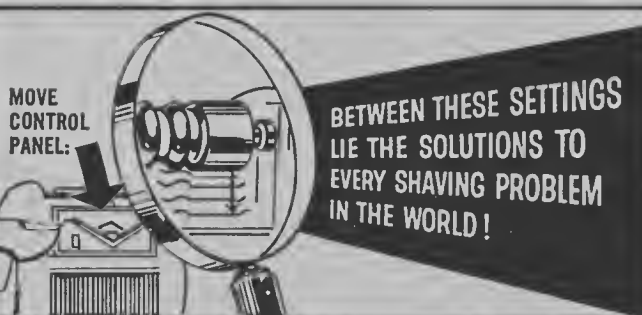
**T**HE most important single feed for cows in winter is high quality legume hay. Home grown grains can be fed as a concentrate provided there is sufficient of this early cut hay. R. P. Dixon, Alberta's supervisor for dairy cattle improvement, says

3 tons of hay per cow are needed for winter feeding in that province. He suggests the following rules:

- Provide all the roughage the cow will eat.
- Do not feed grain to cows producing less than 10 or 12 lb. of milk daily.
- Cows producing above that amount should have 1 lb. of grain for every 3 to 4 lb. of milk.
- If only grass or cereal hays are available, supplement the grain with additional protein, such as linseed oil meal. ✓

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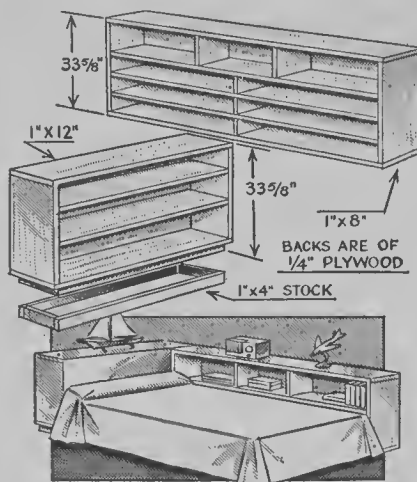
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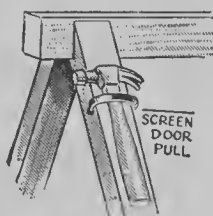
## Wall Unit—Headboard

A bookcase ensemble can solve a storage problem for toys and books. Little-used items are placed on the lower shelves of the wall unit, and are hidden when the bed is moved against it. The length of the wall unit corresponds with the length of the bed, and the headboard unit is equal to the width of the bed plus the wall unit.



Cut the frame members to these lengths, and the side panels of each unit of sufficient length so that when placed between the frame members the total height is 33 5/8". Mark the location of interior shelves on the side panels, as shown in the sketch. Assemble the individual frames, and cut the interior shelves to fit between the sides. Cut three small dividers to fit between the lower shelves of the wall unit. Center the dividers on the shelves and attach them from beneath. Position all shelves and fasten them to the sides. Cut upper dividers to fit and fasten in place. Make the base for the headboard unit 4" shorter than the unit length. Attach hardwood plywood back.—R.S., N.Y. ✓

## Hammer Pocket



For a hammer pocket on a sawhorse, use either a screen-door pull, a strip of sheet metal, or leather. Screwed to one leg of the horse it keeps the hammer handy to the job, provided you get into the habit of dropping the hammer into the holder while you are measuring or sawing the work.—A.N.F., N.B. ✓

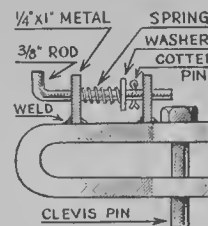
## Plowshare Saver

Cast plowshares don't seem to wear as long as they used to, so a good idea when they become worn is to braze about 4" of an old car spring, or similar material, on the point of the share, with about 2" protruding forward. This is not only a cheap way to renew the share, but it should outwear about two new ones.—E.D., P.E.I. ✓



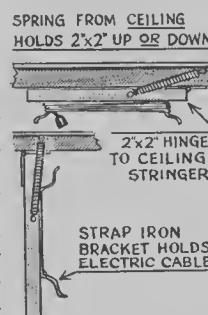
## Clevis Pin Hold-down

Scrap materials can be used for this device to hold down a pin through a machinery clevis attached to a tractor. Weld 2 up-rights of 1/4" by 1" metal to a clevis, with holes drilled through both of them to take a 3/8" rod. The rod is bent at one end as a handle, and the other end extends far enough over the pin to keep it from jumping out. The device is held in position by a spring, retained by a washer and cotter (see sketch). To operate, pull back on the handle, insert the pin and release. The spring returns the rod to correct position. This is especially handy in muddy conditions because it is always above ground for fast release if the tractor should bog down.—W.E.L., Sask. ✓



## Storing Cable

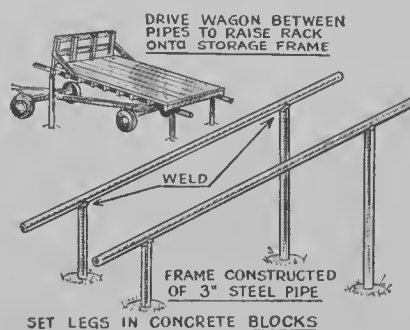
Here's a handy way to put away a portable electric cable in the shop or garage. Take about 4' of 2" by 2" and attach a hinge at one end. Screw it to a stringer or the ceiling, and put an eye-bolt through the ceiling. Fasten a spring about 10" from the hinged end of the 2" by 2", and the other end of the spring is secured to the eyebolt. Add two strap-iron brackets to the underside of the 2" by 2" and wind the cable on them. When the cable is in use, pull down and the 2" by 2" will swing to vertical position, unwind the amount of cable you need, and then release it, so the spring will fold the device back to the ceiling. This can also be used for an adjustable light by having a socket on the end of the cable.—J.B.M., Man. ✓



## Pail Repair

A leaky pail needn't be discarded. Make sure it's absolutely dry and then pour hot paraffin wax over the hole. Apply a small piece of thin cloth to the hole and pour another layer of the melted wax over it. After this has hardened, the pail will be as good as new.—E.M., Mich. ✓

## Hay Unloader

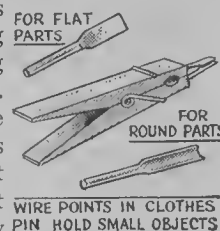


This metal frame is a device to enable one man to unload a hayrack on his own. The idea is to drive the wagon between the posts so the rack catches the lower end of the frame and is tipped up. The angle of the upper part of the frame should be

about 17 degrees, or 1' in 3 1/2'. Set the upright pipes about 2' deep in concrete. The height of the frame will depend on the height of the wagon rack from the ground, so check this carefully before building it.—L.V.C., B.C. ✓

## Improvized Pliers

An ordinary wooden clothespin can be converted into serviceable, needle-nosed pliers by drilling two 1/16" holes in the ends and inserting pieces of baling wire in the holes. As shown in the sketch, the wires are flattened at the ends for flat parts, and they are about 1 1/2" long. For working with tiny round parts, the wires are both flattened and curved. Only one clothespin is needed as the various points are interchangeable. This improvized tool is self-gripping, as the spring applies enough pressure to hold the part securely.—H.E.F., Tex. ✓



## Protects Switches

A hinged junction box will eliminate worries about children turning switches on and off in dangerous places, whether in the workshop or around the home. Simply put hinges on the box and secure it to the wall alongside the switch, add a hasp on the other side of the switch, and the box can be padlocked over the switch.—A.S., Alta. ✓

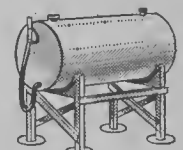
## Clamp Substitute

When gluing together light pieces of wood, such as for picture frames or boxes, I use ordinary masking tape to hold the sections together while the glue sets. As can be seen in the sketch, I use 3 pieces of tape, 2 of them on the sides and 1 around the corner. The work cannot come apart and removal of the tape is simple. Needless to say, the tape strips should be long and wide enough to assure ample contact surfaces for holding the work together.—H.E.F., Tex. ✓



## Fuel Tank Stand

Take four 1-way pans or disc pans from old machines and lay them upside down under each leg of the tank stand. This keeps the tank from sinking into the ground and makes four handy tool pans to hold odd bolts and other small items.—J.J.W., Alta. ✓



## Keeping Paint

If you expect to use a can of paint next day, don't hammer the lid back on. Use a piece of aluminum foil, folding the edges over the sides of the can. This will make a tight seal that is easy to remove and will last a long time.—H.J., Pa. ✓



# Christmas

## AMONG FARMER NEIGHBORS AND THEIR FAMILIES

TO ACHIEVE PEACE through the exercise of mutual love (rather than fear) is the lesson given to Christendom by the lowly Nazarene whose sacred birth we commemorate on Christmas Day.

The utmost reaches of science and research have not discovered a surer way to achieve Peace on Earth than by the practice of Good Will Toward Men.

It is significant that rulers and statesmen of highest earthly power now proclaim the practice of neighborly good will among the nations as the only sure remaining means of outlawing war and opening up the way to a fuller life for all mankind.

It is an inspiring thought to remember that in thousands of homes throughout our beloved land the Peace and Joy of Christmas will be celebrated in the spirit of mutual love; and as good neighbors. Especially in Canada's farm homes—as since earliest pioneer days—is this the traditional way of spending Christmas.

*On behalf of the Board of Directors, the Management and personnel of United Grain Growers Limited—the West's oldest farmer - owned Co-operative—I sincerely extend to all farmers and their families, and to all readers of The Country Guide, Canada's National Farm Monthly magazine,*

# Season's Greetings



*J. M. Howards*  
President and General Manager



## SOILS and CROPS

*A substitute for  
buying more land*

# Pasture Champions Show How to Triple Yields

**N**INETY farmers in Prince Edward Island, another 590 in Ontario, entered local pasture competitions last summer. Most of them fertilized according to soil tests. They stored and spread their manure carefully. They harrowed and clipped their pastures when necessary. They had a rotational or strip grazing program, grew special summer green feed crops, and gave their stock access to shade and water. According to P.E.I. extension worker Dave Peacock most of them got 2 or 3 times as much value from their pastures as most farmers do, in exchange for this extra pasture care.

P.E.I. winner 25-year-old Sterling MacRae gives a pretty good example of how it was done. A young married man who is planning his future on the farm, MacRae turned to pasture improvement for a very good reason. His first farming goal is to earn extra income. That meant buying more land, or boosting production from the 110 acres he farms in partnership with his father.

Extra land at reasonable prices is hard to find at Brookfield. He resolved to boost production on the land he had. In the hope that it would lead to more ideas on how to do it, he entered the pasture competition.

His long-term goal is to boost his 16-cow dairy herd by another 10 cows. As it turned out, he didn't need as much help as he thought. His pasture program was judged best on the Island.

It is based on 28 acres of pasture, divided into 5 different fields for rotational grazing. Although some of it is getting rootbound from being unbroken for 15 years, he is well along now with his reseeding program.

**H**ERE is how he does it. He plows, limes and manures the field. He fertilizes with 400 lb. of 6-12-12 when he seeds. He uses oats as a nurse crop, although in 1959 he seeded one field without a nurse crop at all. In either case, he pastures the field the first summer. Every succeeding year he top dresses with manure or fertilizer. He takes extra care not to overgraze



[Guide photos]  
*MacRae had good new seeding without nurse crop, grazed it in first year.*

any field. And last year, he pastured 30 Ayrshire cows and heifers, and a horse as well, on his 28 acres.

MacRae believes in a good balance of grass and legumes. His standard mixture includes timothy, ladino, red clover, alsike, and alfalfa too. The latter is a plant that hasn't caught on yet with many eastern dairymen.

This program was good enough to win the pasture championship in 1959. "But it wasn't the best pasture on the Island," states MacRae. "I know of one dairyman who grazed 39 Ayrshires most of the summer on 17 acres of pasture. That's a real goal to shoot at."

MacRae points out that roughage must be the basis of his milk program. He doesn't have a fluid milk market, and low manufacturing prices force him to keep his costs low. He plans to boost winter production with corn silage.

"Corn is the highest yielding forage there is," he states. He built a 15 by 28 foot wooden stave silo last summer and put 4 acres of corn in it.

The Ontario pasture champion was Arnold Cardiff, of Renfrew. This dairyman with 140 head of Jerseys,

including young stuff, feeds them on 170 acres. He gets best hay and pasture yields from brome-alfalfa mixtures. To get good brome stands, he mixes his seed with ammonium phosphate and a sand filler on a tarpaulin, then surface broadcasts through a drill. He follows with a cultipacker.

Cardiff strip grazes his herd, moving the electric fence daily. He irrigates, if milk prices justify it. When most of the extra milk goes at surplus prices, he doesn't bother. He grows peas, and bales them, pods and all, to serve as green feed during the summer drought.—D.R.B. ✓

## More in This Overgrazing

**O**VERGRAZING of range land sets up a chain reaction. A. Johnson has been making a study of these effects at the Staveland Range Experiment Substation, Alta., and suggests that overgrazing has much more effect on water runoff than previously suspected.

First, the highly productive and palatable range species are weakened by grazing pressure. They are not able to compete with less palatable range weeds. As overgrazing continues, the soil loses its protective cover, moisture penetration becomes slower and runoff is a problem. The end result is range populated mostly by unpalatable weeds and shallow-rooted annuals. It is open to serious water erosion, particularly in the foothills country.

Tests showed that runoff occurred on all fields at four levels of grazing. But it was less than 25 per cent on light and moderately grazed areas, over 40 per cent when grazing was heavy, and 57 per cent on the very heavily grazed field. The heavy runoff not only caused erosion but allowed less than half the moisture to enter the soil for plant growth. There was no loss of soil from the light and moderately grazed fields, but losses were up to a tenth of a ton per acre where grazing was heavy. ✓

## New Breaking May Become Easier

**B**RUSHLAND preparation is a tough job and the cost of breaking and working down the new land is high. J. L. Dobbs of the Beaverlodge Experimental Farm, Alta., has been looking for a way round these problems.

The idea is to get the cleared land into production without breaking and root-picking. The method is to put it down to pasture, maintain it for 4 or 5 years while tree roots are rotting, and then to break it with conventional equipment.

Brushland, cleared in 1958, was sown to oats and pasture mixtures last season. The crops did well, but it was the seeding method that was of chief interest. There were four methods, all including shallow cultivation with a heavy-duty, serrated disk plow. In one method the land received a single stroke of the implement, while the others were double-disked. Seed was broadcast before disking in two cases,

and the operation was reversed in the other two. In all but one case the land was finally floated.

The best results came from broadcasting seed before shallow, double cultivation. Final floating smoothed and packed the surface.

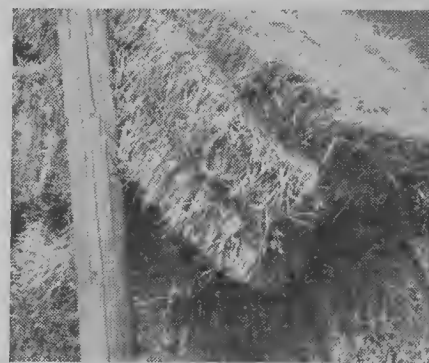
The big problem is regrowth of brush. This may be met by using a heavy-duty rotary mower. Chemical killing also offers possibilities, but it will kill the legume as well as the brush unless the job is done in winter. Spraying with a mixture of 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D in diesel oil will be tried. The hope is that while killing the brush, the crop will be protected by a good covering of snow.

This interesting experiment is being continued. ✓

## This Stack Will Shed Water



**T**HE gable roof effect on this haystack on a Saskatchewan farm is achieved by placing a reinforcing pole along the top of the bales which form the sidewalls. This makes each sidewall a single unit and gives the sloping bales something to "toe" into.—C.V.F. ✓



[Guide photos]  
*Corner of stack showing end of pole.*

## Keeps Nitrogen By Packing Manure

**T**O avoid loss of nitrogen in the manure pile, Ontario's pasture champion Arnold Cardiff of Renfrew builds long piles 7 feet high. Manure is hauled from the stable in litter carriers and emptied into the front-end loader of his tractor. He hauls it to the pile and dumps it there. Then, he drives the tractor up on the heap to pack it thoroughly.

Cardiff claims there is absolutely no ammonia odor in the spring, even if the pile is open for a day. Every pasture and hay field gets a dressing of this good manure in the spring or the fall.—D.R.B. ✓



*A rotational plan for grazing on five fields helped to boost production. Sterling MacRae was able to graze 30 of his cows and heifers on 28 acres.*

# POULTRY

## Tests of Random Mating

**P**OULTRY strains can be maintained profitably for several generations by random mating, rather than with the arduous routine associated with pedigree breeding. A. P. Piloski of the Indian Head Experimental Farm, Sask., has reared four generations of White Leghorn strains from random matings. Hatchability and fertility showed consistent improvement over the four generations. Egg size was maintained at about the same level and production decreased only slightly.

In setting up this experiment, two major strains of White Leghorns were continuously selected at Ottawa on the basis of pedigree records. These were sent to Indian Head in 1953. One strain had been pedigree bred for 18 years, so it was well fixed at a high level of performance. The other had been formed recently and was still improving rather rapidly.

Each strain was kept separate and mated at random, without the use of any pedigree records for selecting breeding stock. ✓

## Sell Roasters By 18 Weeks Maximum

**B**ROILER chickens are taking over much of the poultry meat industry, because they eat less feed, for each pound of body weight they gain, than do older birds. Where does this leave the old-fashioned roaster chicken? Its popularity is in decline, but for those farmers who are raising roasters, Superintendent Tom MacIntyre, of the Nappan Experimental Station, N.S., has carried out trials to show how long the birds should be fed before killing.

He found that after 14 weeks, feed efficiency drops off fast, and he concludes that 18 weeks is the very limit for keeping them. He found that between 10 and 12 weeks of age, roasters take slightly over 4 lb. of feed to put on a pound of gain. Six weeks later (16-18 weeks of age) they eat twice as much feed for each pound of gain they make.—D.R.B. ✓

## Six Points For Turkeymen

**H**ERE'S a set of rules for turkey raisers from G. O. Johnson, poultry inspector for the Camrose district of Alberta:

- Buy healthy poults and keep them healthy.
- Have the brooder properly cleaned out and in working order.
- Provide good ventilation and avoid losses through carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Do not give poults a chick starter. They need more protein and vitamins than chicks do.
- Do not use alkaline water for young poults. Use runoff or surface water for the first three weeks if well has a lot of sodium in it.

- Cover litter under and around the brooder with sacking. It stops poults eating the litter before they find the feed. ✓

## Clean Start For New Flocks

**O**NE of the main sources of germs and parasites among young turkeys and chickens is being in the same building or the same yards as old birds, or by putting them on ground that has been dirtied by old birds. Dr. C. H. Bigland, Alberta veterinary pathologist, says if older chickens can be sold before young birds move in, or at least kept isolated from young birds, the disease cycle can be broken. This is especially true of avian tuberculosis and fowl typhoid.

Running chickens and turkeys on clean ranges each year also helps them to dodge diseases and parasites. If range could be used only once in three years it would give an opportunity for disease germs and parasites to die out before they could be passed to young poultry flocks. ✓

## Give Hens Elbow Room

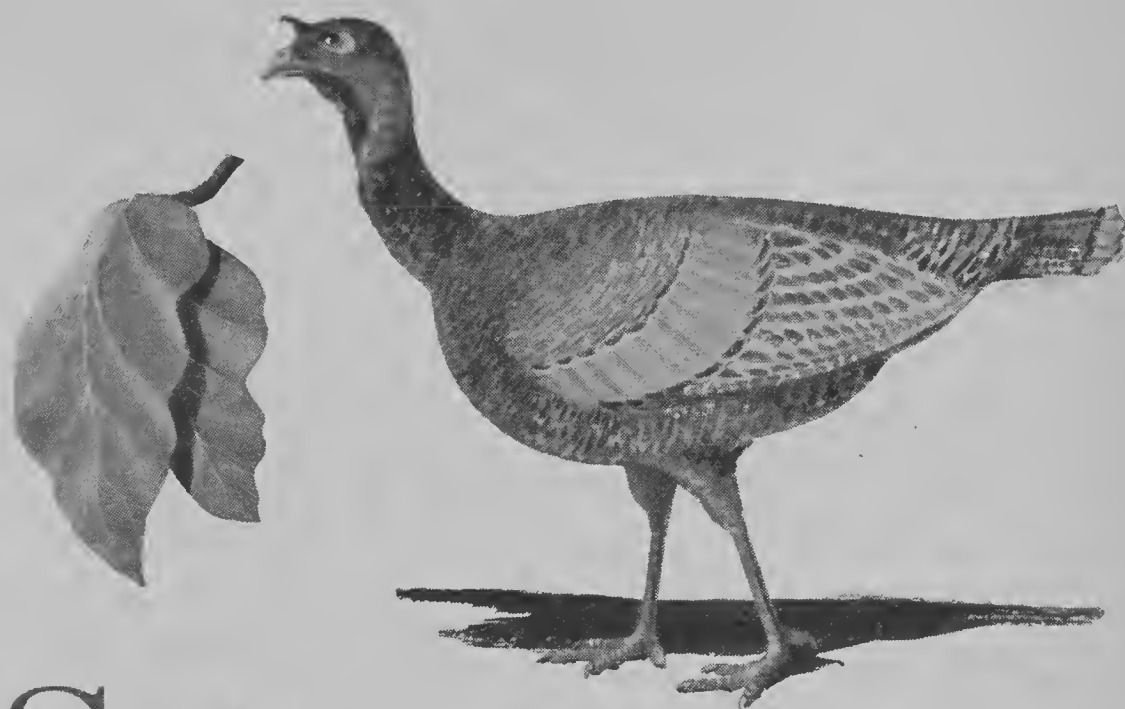
**I**F the laying house is too crowded, one of the first signs will be wet litter. Most ventilation systems cannot remove the extra moisture from extra birds. Another result of crowding is cannibalism, which can cause heavy losses.

The poultry department at the Brandon Experimental Farm draws attention to the common recommend-

ation of 3 to 4 square feet of floor space per bird for heavy breeds, and 2½ to 3 square feet for light breeds. Forced draft ventilation and adequate space for feeding, watering and nesting have enabled some poultrymen to reduce floor space per bird to less than 2½ square feet. But it is often necessary to debeak birds or use anti-picking devices to prevent cannibalism. "Hen-specs" have given good results at Brandon.

Feeder space should be 35 to 40 linear feet for 100 birds, waterers should supply 5 gallons of water per day, and there should be nesting space for each 4 or 5 layers. If community nests are preferred, one nest of 2 ft. by 4 ft. should be allotted to each 50 layers. Light breeds need 7 in. of roosting space per bird, heavy breeds 10 in. each. ✓

whatever you grow-whatever you raise



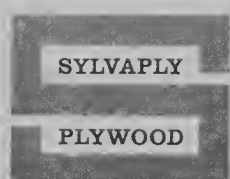
# SYLVAPLY

can make your farming more efficient, more profitable

Working with farmers all over Canada, Sylvaply Plywood field engineers have developed plans for farm buildings and structures that can help *any* farm operation — big or little — become more efficient, more profitable. Many printed plans — all free — are available at the dealer in your community who sells Sylvaply Plywood. And to meet special problems not covered by the printed plans, Sylvaply field men have scores of suggestions and blueprints for Sylvaply customers.

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*This tough, light weight, real wood panel is Canada's busiest building material, has countless uses on the farm. There is a type, grade, thickness and panel size for every job. Continuing research and quality control have made Sylvaply the leading brand of plywood . . . sold by dealers who know it, know who makes it, can vouch for its reliability. Look for the name on the panel edge — Sylvaply waterproof-glue plywood.*

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## Problems of Farming Under Glass

**G**REENHOUSE operators may have found a way to beat the weather, but the nature of their operations brings special problems which the ordinary farmer never encounters, according to Ed Lum, president of Young Bros., B.C.'s largest growers under glass. One of these is the accumulation of fertilizer salts which make greenhouse soils too acid.

"The soil on our older ranges has become so heavy with salts from fertilizer applications it's hard to maintain yields, let alone increase them," Lum pointed out. "We've no way of washing these salts out. We'd have been in an awful mess now if it hadn't been for the work of the provincial horticulture department and soils laboratory. They're always on the lookout for a fertilizer mix that'll cut down on this salt deposition, and we stick pretty close to whatever they recommend."

Actually, Young Bros. have been able to increase their tomato yields a little by adopting special cultivation practices. One method is the use of raised ground benches which improve drainage and lift soil temperatures. Another is by rotating crops from one "range" to another, and practicing a sort of indoor summerfallowing some years to rest certain beds, where organic matter has been depleted by 15 to 20 years of steady cropping.

**O**NCE a year, about December, the greenhouse soils are sterilized as a disease and weed control measure. Steam has been used as the chief sterilant, but this is being gradually replaced by chloropicrin, or tear gas as it is more commonly called. Cost of chloropicrin is only about two-thirds that of steam sterilization, and the gas has a more sensitive action against the nematode, a minute worm which causes a lot of damage to house-raised plants.

Ed Lum operates four greenhouse enterprises or "ranges" with his



Indoor yields are three or four times heavier than outdoors in this area.

*Beating the weather is just a part of it*



Raised benches provide better drainage and enable soil to warm up faster.

brothers John and Charles. The business was started by their father Young Lum, who, in turn, operated with four of his brothers. When the Lums took over on their father's death in 1956, they added carnations and 'mums to the regular crops of tomatoes and cucumbers. They employ a year round staff of 20 helpers with 20 to 30 extras for peak production periods.

The first tomato crop is produced from early May to about July 20, and the fall crop from the last week of October to the end of November. There is only one cucumber crop, and this is grown from April 15 to July 31—after that, competition from field-grown crops makes production of hot-house "cukes" uneconomical. The biggest competitor in the tomato line is American field crops which can be grown cheaply outside without any heating bills to up production costs.

**T**HE four "ranges" of the Young Bros. comprise a total glass area of 400,000 sq. ft., making them the largest indoor producers in British Columbia. An average crop year yields about 20,000 cases of tomatoes, 11,000 cases of cucumbers, 30,000 bunches of 'mums (Christmas trade) and 20,000 dozen carnations.

Raising greenhouse tomatoes enables the Island grower to get two crops instead of one, and growth is generally 3 to 4 times that of similar crops raised outside in that area. But balanced against this are the costs of heating, plant maintenance and the special problems which arise through such intensive cultivation.

Ed Lum sees a possible answer to the latter in the use of a peat-sand mixture as a growing medium.

"But I can't see us switching to peat and sand in the near future," he said. "It would be a pretty expensive proposition and the profit margin is too slim in this business these days to warrant it. In spite of our efforts, we haven't been able to increase yields enough to keep pace with rising pro-

duction costs, and tomato prices have been dropping because of unchecked American competition."—C.V.F. V

## Co-op Links Store and Grower

**"W**E'D have nothing but chaos, if we had to buy from thousands of individual farmers," stated a grocery chain store executive recently. But this philosophy need not doom the small farmer.

The huge 500-member, \$2½ million Scotian Gold Co-operative in Nova Scotia is helping its members meet the needs of such a chain. It contracted last spring to provide 65,000 bushels of potatoes in fall and winter to Dominion Stores. Then it contracted with growers to produce them.

Potatoes were delivered to the Co-op last fall and were stored in 20-bushel bulk bins. They are being packed in 5, 10 or 15 lb. bags for delivery to Halifax stores during the winter.

No prices were stated in the contract. The Co-op hopes that a high quality pack will earn them a premium over market prices.

Leonard Holt is one of the growers who got into the chain store contract this year. He grows 175 acres of potatoes at his Canning farm, but most of them go to a potato-chip plant.

"I hope this chain store contract turns out well," he told The Country



Leonard Holt contracted with a co-op for packing, shipping to chain store.

Guide. "The principle of providing quality potatoes under some form of contract, at premium prices, is sound."

Holt knows the contract idea, from his experience in the potato chip business. He would like to see more than one of the chains buying their potatoes from the co-op. It would bring more price uniformity, leave less chance of costly cut-throat price wars between the chains.—D.R.B. V

## Weed Killers Hard on Mice

**H**ERE'S a new use for chemical weed killers. Fruit specialists at the University of Wisconsin find they can prevent injury by mice in apple orchards. The chemicals remove protective grass and weed cover around the base of the tree, where machinery can't do a job. Grass gives cover to mice in winter, and they will often chew bark from the tree.

Complete control of all vegetation under adult trees was given by monuron or diuron herbicides at 10 lb. per acre. The control has lasted for 2 to 3 years. Applications were made in April and grass was killed by the fall, when it could be raked away from the trees. The trees were not injured.

This treatment is not a substitute for conventional mouse control programs, such as baiting. It reduces mouse damage because the animals will not cross a bare area to feed. V

## How to Stop Black Spot of Elm

**I**F elm leaves have turned yellow and dropped before they should, the cause is black spot disease. Small black spots can be seen on the leaves before they turn yellow. There is a danger that leaves may fall after wet weather, growth may be stopped and twigs killed at the tips.

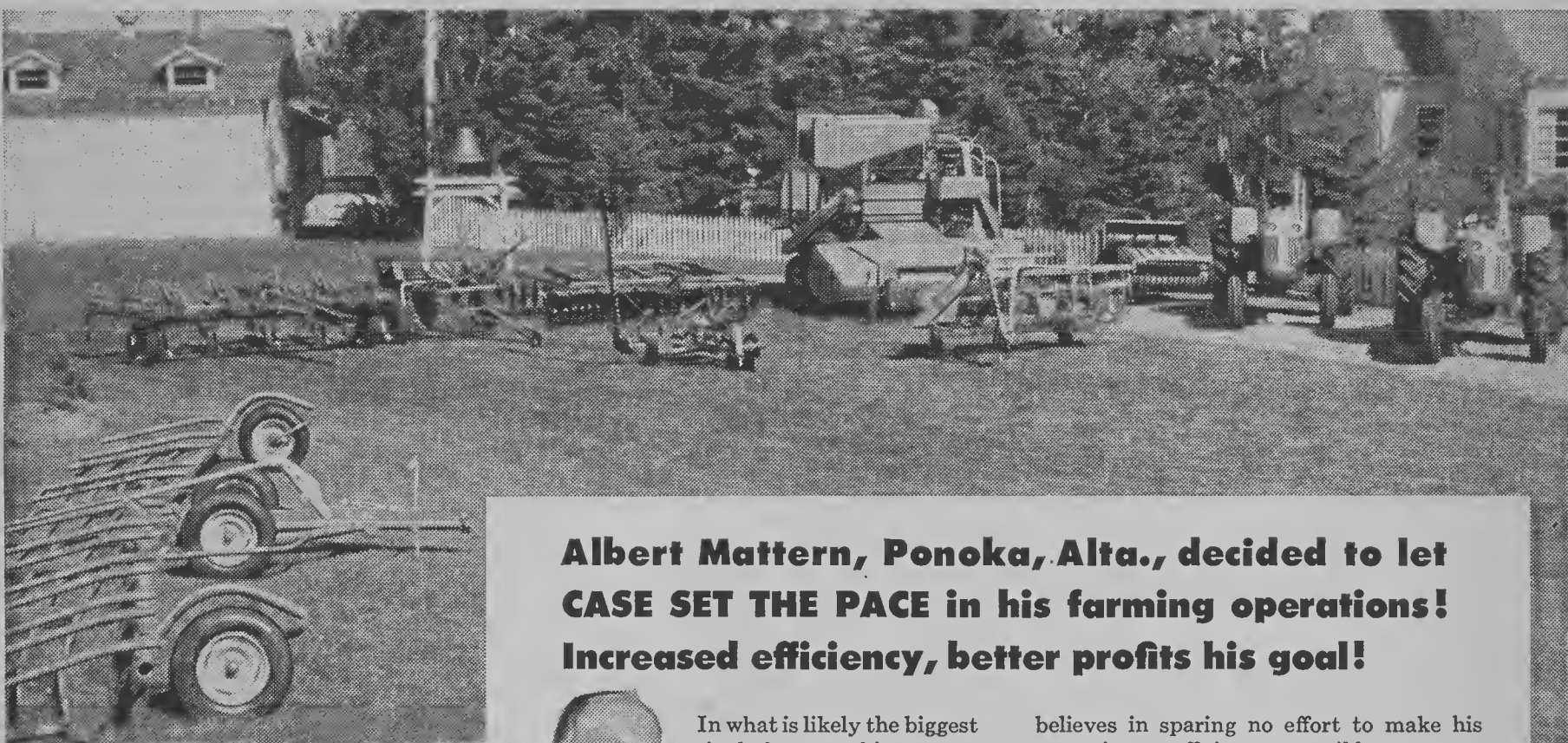
The Ontario Department of Agriculture suggests raking and burning the fallen leaves to prevent black spot from overwintering in the ground. In the spring, the elms should be sprayed with liquid lime sulphur (1 part to 8 parts of water by volume) while the buds are still dormant. Other treatments are 76 per cent Ferbam wettable powder (1 lb. in 40 gallons of water) or 10-10-100 bordeaux. Do not use the lime sulphur mixture where spray may drift onto painted buildings. V



"I forgot to clean out his pockets and ran his frog through the wringer."

## Alberta Farmer Makes Record Purchase!

# REFITS FARM with 15 CASE IMPLEMENTS in SINGLE DEAL



**Albert Mattern, Ponoka, Alta., decided to let CASE SET THE PACE in his farming operations! Increased efficiency, better profits his goal!**



Albert Mattern

In what is likely the biggest single farm machinery purchase ever made in Canada, Albert Mattern traded all his heavy farm implements and replaced them with 15 new pieces of CASE Equipment.

The new CASE Equipment purchased by Mr. Mattern ranges from a Plow to a big CASE 1000 Self-Propelled Combine. Its total value is about \$35,000.

Mr. Mattern farms five quarters of land eight miles west of Hobbema, Alta., and

believes in sparing no effort to make his operation as efficient as possible.

"The better your equipment, the more efficiently you can run your farm," he says. "After comparing CASE Equipment with other makes, I found it to be the best-made and most advanced line of farm machinery on the market today."

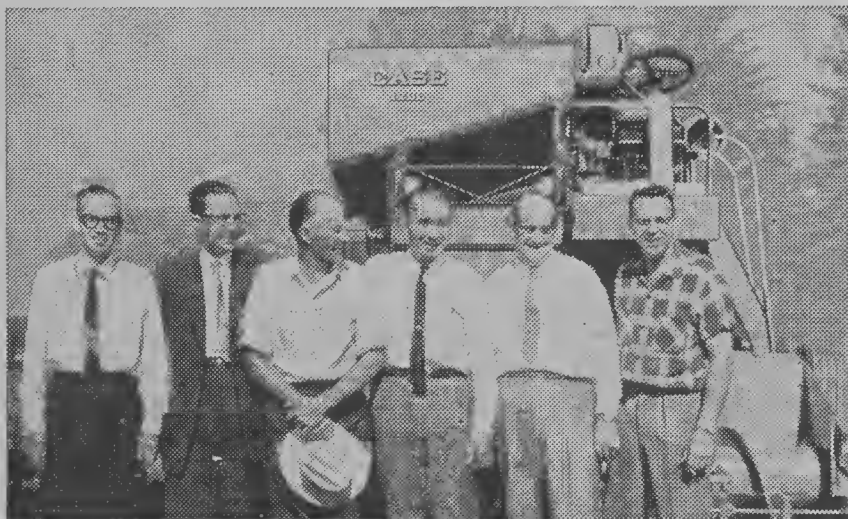
Whether it's a CASE Tractor or Combine, or implements like the new CASE Chisel Plow or Disk Harrow, you can be sure they are all built to operate efficiently and stand up longer.

**Only 10 CASE Implements are shown above. The others were out of our camera's range.**

Shown are: 900 Tractor, 800 Diesel Tractor, 5-Furrow Plow, 1000 Combine, Chisel Plow, Boler, Rake, Mower, Hydraulic Drowbor Carrier and 42-ft. w/Spike Tooth Harrow, Disc Harrow.

Not shown are: Cultivator, Seed Drill, One-Way Disc, Self-Propelled Windrower, Hammermill.

### CASE SERVICE GROUP CONGRATULATES MR. MATTERN



J. I. CASE Officials who played a part in the record purchase are shown with Mr. Mattern in front of his new CASE 1000 Combine. Left to right are N. A. Bloom, Edmonton Branch Manager; Fred Dittburner, Sales Promotion Mgr.; Mr. Mattern; S. O. McLennan, Agricultural Sales Manager, Calgary; Roland Pahal, progressive Case Dealer at Wetaskiwin, Alta.; A. E. McLennan, Territory Supervisor.



Albert Mattern at the wheel of his new CASE 900 Diesel Tractor.

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1823 1/2 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg 12, Manitoba

## Science Now Shrinks Piles Without Pain or Discomfort

Finds Substance That Relieves Pain,  
And Itching As It Shrinks Hemorrhoids

Toronto, Ont. (Special)—For the first time science has found a new healing substance with the ability to shrink hemorrhoids and to relieve pain and itching. Thousands have been relieved with this inexpensive substance right in the privacy of their own home without any discomfort or inconvenience.

In case after case, while gently relieving pain actual reduction (shrinkage) took place.

Most amazing of all—results were so thorough that sufferers made statements like "Piles have ceased to be a problem!"

The secret is a new healing substance (Bio-Dyne)—discovery of a famous scientific institute.

Now this new healing substance is offered in suppository or ointment form called Preparation H. Ask for it at all drug stores—money back guarantee.



## Light Elevator

ACCORDING to Prof. Frank Parrish, Kemptville Agricultural School, Ont., this light tubular-steel, electrically powered elevator is ideal for reducing hand lifting of bags of grain, hay bales or other items around the farm or in the barn. It can supplement the work of heavier elevators on larger farms. Professor Parrish points out it can be moved by hand, and has no solid wearing parts. ✓



[Guide photo]

## Right Fuel For the Tractor

FOR top horsepower, economy and low upkeep costs use the right tractor fuel, says J. L. Thompson of the Swift Current Experimental Farm, Sask. Tests have shown that as soon as detonation or pinging occurs, no increase in horsepower can be obtained, best economies are obtained with loads at which the engine is usually required to operate, and slight pinging at peak loads is not objectionable.

When the wrong fuel is used, foreign materials are deposited more rapidly on the valves, head and piston area. Spark plugs foul up and need more maintenance. Carbon deposits on the head and valve area tend to cause preignition or promote pinging at lighter loads than normal. Pinging may also develop mechanical troubles as a result of the strain produced on detonation.

The wrong fuel will lead inevitably to an early ring and valve job on the engine. This will not only increase the cost of operation, but further loss if the repairs have to be done at a time when the power is urgently needed. ✓

## Full Tank

FILL the tractor fuel tank at night and run the engine until the carburetor is filled with fresh fuel. This will ensure a supply of volatile fuel for cold starting. It also helps to eliminate condensation problems. ✓

## Mechanical Mixing And Self-Feeding System



Chopped grain is mixed with silage by augering it into rotating feed bunk.

TO reduce the labor involved in feeding 400 steers, beefman Verne Kaufman built a 24' by 50' concrete stave upright silo at Woodstock, Ont., and equipped it with an automatic unloader and a self-feeding bunk that revolves around the silo base. When filling the silo with grass last fall, he added barley to the lower layers and molasses to the top, to increase the carbohydrate content of the feed.

At feeding time, three times a day, he starts up the unloader and the feed bunk, and then augers a little extra grain from his feed cart into the rotating bunk to balance the ration.—D.R.B. ✓



[Guide photos]

Verne Kaufman inspecting the ration.

## Electric Power On Tractor of Future



A PEEK into the future is provided by this Allis-Chalmers experimental tractor. It has 1,008 fuel cells to supply electric power by the reaction of fuel gases and oxygen in an electrolyte. The controller to the left of the driver sets the speed forward and in reverse. This engineless tractor develops 3,000 lb. drawbar pull, more than enough to pull a multiple-bottom plow in field tests.

The gas supply, mostly propane, is in tanks mounted on the back and sides of the tractor. These gases go to the cells through a system of tubing, setting up the reaction in the electrolyte. ✓





# NOW... '60 CHEVROLET STURDI-BILT TRUCKS

WITH REVOLUTIONARY  
TORSION-SPRING  
SUSPENSION  
THAT GIVES ASTONISHING NEW  
SHOCKPROOF  
ACTION!!!!

Chevy's done the next best thing  
to paving every road in Canada!

First they threw out the front axle and put in torsion-spring independent suspension. Then they built coil rear springs into most light-duty models, variable-rate leaf springs into heavies. That made it a ride you have to feel to believe. A ride that lets you move faster to get more work done in a day.

#### Brawnier bulldozer build!

They're tougher than any Chevy trucks ever made. Frames are stronger, cabs 67% more rigid. Front wheels and tires are precision-balanced. And that new suspension cushions jars and road shock that used to spell slow death for sheet metal.

#### More comfortable cabs!

Easier to hop in and out of too. Many models are a whole 7 inches lower outside. Yet there's more head room inside, plus more width for shoulders and hips.

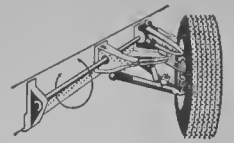
#### Big in the power department!

With the industry's most advanced gas-saving 6's. With high-torque Workmaster V8 performance in heavyweights. With new 6-cylinder or V8 power available in new L.C.F. models.

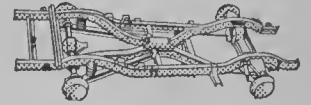
#### More models than ever!

New 4-wheel-drive models, tandems and high-styled Suburban Carryalls. It's the handsomest, hardiest Chevy fleet ever to report for duty. See your dealer for the whole story, and be sure to take a ride!

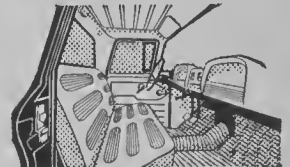
Anything less is an old-fashioned truck! . . . . .



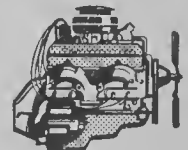
REVOLUTIONARY INDEPENDENT FRONT SUSPENSION



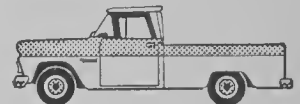
STRONGER FRAMES — BIGGER BRAKES



ROOMIER COMFORT — FINE CABS



WIDER POWER CHOICE



GREATER MODEL SELECTION



**CHEVROLET**

A GENERAL MOTORS VALUE

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# Carter

## STOCK TANK DE-ICERS AND PORTABLE WATER HEATERS



### STOCK TANK DE-ICERS Float Type

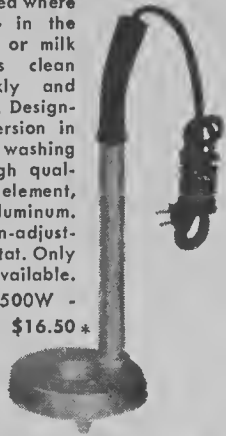
Latest development in "Carter" Float Type Heaters. Keeps stock troughs clear of ice when the temperature plunges. Two models available . . . one with built-in thermostat, other with tilt type safety switch. Both models equipped with advanced design, guarded elements.

Priced from 14.55 to \$15.75\*

### "CARTER" Portable Water Heater

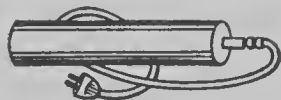
Lightweight unit that meets the need where it exists — in the house, barn or milk shed. Heats clean water quickly and economically. Designed for immersion in pail, tub or washing machine. High quality tubular element, die-cast in aluminum. Sealed-in non-adjustable thermostat. Only one model available.

E 1501 - 1500W - 115V. .... \$16.50\*



### STOCK TANK DE-ICERS Permanent Type

A sound investment in longterm service. Ruggedly constructed. Features new tubular element that extends well below the surface of the water. Controlled by a manually operated cut-off switch. Priced from \$26.50 to \$28.75\*.



### "CARTER" Poultry WATER WARMERS

Designed to lay submerged in the water in poultry trough to keep water temperature uniform. Factory set thermostat to 50 degrees is built into the unit to cut the power off when the water reaches this temperature.

Models available:

M101 - 100W, 115V ..... \$6.95

M151 - 150W, 115V ..... \$7.15

M251 - 250W, 115V ..... \$8.60\*

\*Suggested Retail Price

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MULTIPLE ribbed style sheets for both roofing and siding. 39 disposable lengths from 6 ft. to 24 ft. cover 32" wide. Send roof measurements for free estimate and illustrated folder giving full information. Samples on request. Also flat rolled aluminum and galvanized in coils. Also clapboard siding aluminum and galvanized. ANT. GONNEVILLE MANUFACTURING, Dept. 3, Charette, P. Que., Canada.

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No longer be annoyed or feel ill-at-ease because of loose, wobbly false teeth. FASTEETH, an improved alkaline (non-acid) powder, sprinkled on your plates holds them firmer so they feel more comfortable. Avoid embarrassment caused by loose plates. Get FASTEETH at drug counters everywhere.

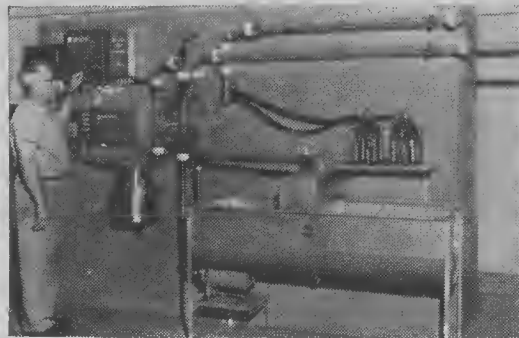


### Big Power for Big Farming



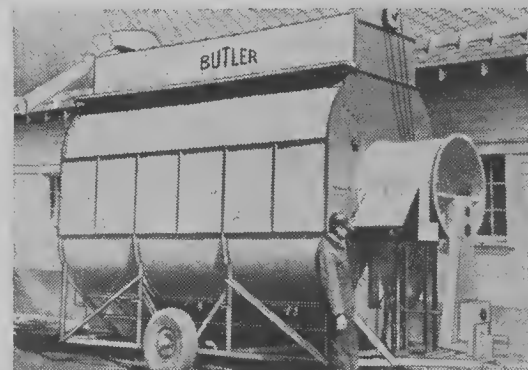
This rubber-tired farm tractor weighs 10 tons. Its hydraulic system, 3-point hitch and giant equipment are said to make the advantages of integral farming available for the first time to farmers with big acreages. Some of the equipment for it weighs 3 tons. Hydraulic controls are the same type as used on conventional tractors. The tractor has a 6-cylinder engine with 4-wheel drive. Front and rear units are joined by a coupling to allow each to oscillate independently on rough ground. (Deere and Company) (272) ✓

### Push-Button Pipeline Cleaning



An electronic control automatically handles rinsing, washing and sanitizing of the entire milking system. The process can be stopped, but when started again it continues through to the end of the washing cycle for complete cleaning. Liquids are drawn through the system at 35 m.p.h. Teat cups pulsate during the washing process. (De Laval) (273) ✓

### Batch Dryer for Grain



Features of this equipment are choice of PTO or electric drive, matched fan and heater for uniform drying, large drying surfaces, belt elevator, and large discharge ports to empty six grain compartments at one time or separately. Clutch control powers augers without stopping the drying. (Butler Manufacturing Co.) (274) ✓

### Tractor-Mounted Sprayer Unit



Back up, hook up and you're ready for spraying, say the manufacturers. The unit mounts on any standard 3-point hitch. The picture shows Brodjet type spray, but boom models are available. A universal-joint drive shaft from PTO powers pump and agitator. Fiberglass tank holds 100 gallons. (Hanson Equipment Co.) (275) ✓

For further information about any item mentioned in "What's New," write to WHAT'S NEW Department, The Country Guide, 1760 Ellice Ave., Winnipeg 12, Man., giving the key number shown at the end of each item, as—(17).

Continued from page 16

HOG BREEDING

of meal fed per day depends on the sow's condition. Those that have over-eaten are rationed, whereas those that have been bullied are fed generously.

A day or so before the sow is due, according to her mating date, she is moved into the farrowing box giving her a few hours to settle in her confined surroundings. There are 15 such boxes in the farrowing house, each box being housed in a separate insulated pen. The sow is taken to an adjacent pen for feeding. She generally farrows without attention, but a night watchman on duty does prevent the occasional piglet being killed by over-lying. An infra red lamp hanging over each recess attracts piglets away from the mother.

THE average litter born per sow is slightly over 11, the older sows often having 14 or 15. Breeding policy has increased litter size over the years. Piglets from larger litters are given to sows with less, to bring the overall average to 11. Piglets that have been switched to a foster mother, have a notch cut in one ear before being switched and the dam's number is recorded on the foster mother's card. At tattooing, all piglets are tattooed on the right ear with the mother's number and those that have been switched are tattooed, in addition, on the left ear with the foster mother's herd number.

On the day following farrowing the sow with litter is transported to "the ring." This New Zealand idea has proved very successful in preventing overlying. One piglet per litter is the average loss during rearing. It consists essentially of an outer circle 8 ft. in diameter bounded by a 3 ft. high wall with an up-ended 40 gallon metal barrel placed eccentrically in the circle, toward the entrance. The barrel is secured firmly to the floor.

On the side of the barrel diagonally opposite the entrance to the ring there is a scoot hole to allow piglets to get into the area enclosed by the barrel. An infra red lamp hangs down from the up-ended base of the barrel. Around the inner side of the ring, and bulging out from the barrel, directly above the scoot hole, are crush rails

formed by 2-inch galvanized water piping. There are two pieces of piping, one on either side of the entrance between the wall of the ring and the barrel, at a height of 4 inches from the floor, to prevent the sow lying in this colder area. The floor is insulated and the whole structure placed in an insulated house.

On the second or third day, the piglets are given two injections of proprietary iron and vitamin B12.

FOR 10 years it has been the practice to put sow and litter out to range on the fourth day, housed in an apex hut with paddock attached for the piglets, while the sow, but not the piglets, can escape to the open field by stepping over a 15-inch step at the entrance to the porch.

The apex hut, which has been designed by the McCuckian brothers, is fully insulated, the double walls being packed with insulating material. A heavy sack hangs down at the entrance to the porch and at the entrance to the hut, and the floor of the hut is made of tongue-and-groove timber 3 inches thick.

"This insulated hut is the smallest space in which a sow and litter can be housed so that there is minimum loss of heat and no drafts," explains Brian.

Even when there is continuous snow and ice, litters prosper in these snug houses. They are so housed until they are 3 weeks old. By this stage, the piglets have picked up sufficient iron and trace elements from the soil, even when snow-bound, to prevent piglet anemia. In addition, piglets of more than 3 weeks somehow find ways of escape from the hut or paddock and become troublesome to confine.

Prof. H. G. Lamont of Queen's University, Belfast, a leading veterinary authority on pig husbandry and diseases, co-operated with the brothers in devising the hut and paddock system. Professor Lamont is convinced that until science comes along with a better solution, access to soil and fresh air, together with warm housing, remains the best available regime for giving piglets a good start and protection against anemia.

When sows and litters come from range they are housed in individual apex huts with small yards attached, in a long row in what was formerly a cold high-roofed shed. In this case the huts are larger than the range variety, and two huts are built under the same roof, sharing a middle wall, making two compartments each with separate yard.

At 7 weeks, 4 sows and litters are housed together in an insulated house with yard attached. Gerald McCuckian detailed these advantages:

- 1. Sows and litters do not fight, although sows housed separately would savage each other, and piglets mixed without sows do fight and suffer a setback.
- 2. The 17 best piglets from the 4 litters, averaging 40 lb. each, are taken off to fill one weaning house at about 8 weeks.
- 3. After 5 or 6 days another 17 are taken off.
- 4. The remaining 8 or 9 pigs are given a further 7 days with 4 sows, and although these are drying off, they boost the backward piglets to close on 40 lb.
- 5. The sows dry off gradually, so preventing udder troubles.
- 6. The sows tend to come in season simultaneously, since the presence of menstruation in one sow stimulates the others.

The 17 weaners occupy a weaning house, fully insulated, with yard at-



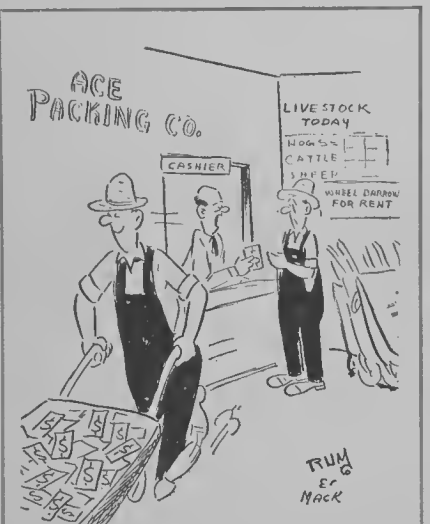
**"EXPORT"**  
PLAIN OR FILTER TIP  
CIGARETTES

**MEN PAST 40**  
Afflicted With Bladder Trouble,  
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tached. After 14 days they move, with another 17, into a house twice as big and partially divided into two incomplete sections having a "commons" where both lots meet. After a time both batches mix freely without fighting.

After another 14 days or so the 34 are moved into a fattening pen. These pens are arranged on either side of a central passage, all being under one roof. The house was built originally with a high roof and there were pens arranged on either side of the central passage. Dividing walls were then only 4 ft. high so that air circulated throughout the whole length of the long house, causing drafts. That, in conjunction with the high uninsulated roof and cold floors, resulted in cold houses, pneumonia, and a high rate of sickness, apart from poor food conversion.

**I**N 1935, the McGuckians recognized the importance of insulation to maintain even temperatures throughout the 24 hours in all weathers. The ceilings were insulated with tongue-and-groove boards, supported on the joists of the roof, which was of tar and felt. The floors were insulated by laying floors supported on walls, giving a 3-inch sealed air space below, or by incorporating 3 inches of vermiculite under the surface layer of concrete. Finally, each pen was completely isolated from the central passage and from neighboring pens by raising stout wooden partitions from the top of existing dividing walls up to roof level.

The McGuckian principle of housing for fattening pigs stated as simply as possible is: "House all pigs in thoroughly insulated houses, as many pigs as possible to each house, giving approximately 5 sq. ft. per pig in final stages. Provide no definite ventilation, apart from whatever air seeps in around the doorways or other chinks. By so doing, the temperature is never allowed to fall below 75° in any weather, even when outside temperatures are far below freezing."

The McGuckians maintain that it is impossible to provide ventilation without causing drafts. Fattening pigs are not allowed access to an outside yard because experience has shown that by so doing drafts are created through the exit from the house to

the yard, causing variations of up to 7° in floor temperatures in different parts of the house. In addition, pigs tend to sleep in the open air, resulting in occasional cases of pneumonia.

Lack of ventilation causes drips of condensation during hot weather and the pigs tend to lie dirty. This, however, does not cause any concern because temperatures are steady. In summer, temperatures are around 91° in the fattening houses, without causing ill-effects. As the units of 34 fatteners grow and mature they move into a house just a little bigger to accommodate them comfortably.

**F**EEDING of all stock from day-old to bacon weight is based on skim milk and grains. Since the supply of milk is not constant throughout the year the grain is balanced according to requirement. In summer, during the surplus milk season, 6,000 gallons of skim milk is delivered daily by tank into 2,000-gallon tanks, and used within 24 hours. Molasses is added at the rate of 1 gallon per 30 gallons of milk, to incorporate a cheap form of carbohydrates, and to make the milk more palatable.

From the storage tanks, the milk is pumped around the farm in 2-inch pipes. At morning and evening feeds, milk is poured on top of the dry meal at the rate of at least 1 gallon per fattening pig. Skim milk is also available to sows and litters immediately they are moved into the ring, usually at the rate of one-half to one gallon, three times daily. Sweetened with molasses, it presents a very palatable drink for piglets. A balanced meal is available in a creep for the piglets.

Manure is taken away from all buildings in steel containers suspended on overhead rails, while all liquid manure is collected into a holding tank at the rate of 10,000 gallons per week. At the inlet to the tank there is a by-pass which can be operated in very rainy weather to prevent the greatly diluted effluent being collected. The liquid is pumped from the concrete tank into a tanker carrying 3,000 gallons per load, and transported to Massacre, a 700-acre farm which is mainly grassland. There, a mammoth holding tank has a capacity of half a million gallons. As weather and season dictates, the effluent is sprayed onto the pastures.

Queen's University grassland chemists are co-operating in a test to assess the value of such spraying but it would appear that the liquid manure is yearly replacing fertilizers to the value of at least £1,500. V

*Continued from page 17*

## GROW GEESE

as well, but he cautions: "Be sure not to boil the turnips. Don't give the birds a soft feed."

"Provide lots of fresh drinking water for the birds," he says. "Don't worry about a place to swim. They don't need it."

**O**NE of MacDonald's goals is to develop bigger geese that will make more use of succulent pasture. He believes a crossbreeding program might do it. He hopes to develop a

female flock of Pilgrims that will lay about 30 eggs a year each. If he is successful, this will give him 75 per cent hatchability.

MacDonald is trying three different breeds in his crossbreeding program. They are the African, the White Embden and the White Roman. The latter is a promising import from England. By using the males from these heavy breeds on his Pilgrim females, in a 2- or 3-way cross, he hopes to produce bigger, faster-growing birds for his customers.

MacDonald's new building is 160 feet long, and has a 10-foot feed room at one end. The remainder is divided into 10 pens, each of which has enough space for 30 to 35 breeding females. He intends to use the loft for brooding goslings. To improve fertility of the birds, he is providing a place for the geese to swim. This has been accomplished by diverting a nearby brook through a hand-dug channel which passes by the building. V

## A Blade Cultivator Is Born



*The blade as it looks when mounted on its carriage all ready to go to work.*

**T**HE late Charles Sherwood Noble of Nobleford, Alta., won many honors in his lifetime for his efforts in promoting a better agriculture. These included the M.B.E., an



*Top: A welder joining blades to produce the familiar V-shaped cultivator.*

*Right: Noble blades in action on the Berglund farm, near Moose Jaw, Sask.*



*The late Charles Noble turns the sod for his new cultivator plant in 1952.*

honorary doctor of laws from the University of Alberta, membership in the Alberta agricultural hall of fame, and an honorary membership in the Agricultural Institute of Canada.

At one time Noble farmed 56 sections of land and was considered the biggest wheat farmer in the British Commonwealth. But perhaps he is best known as the developer of the Noble blade cultivator, an implement which has proved a boon to farmers in the drought-ridden areas of Western Canada and the United States. V



# How to build more miles of Canada's farm roads



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**MACHINES FOR  
BETTER ROADS,  
BETTER FARMS!**



by FLORENCE B. MICHELSON

That stopped her. I got a wet kiss. She wiped her eyes and tried to smile.

"Besides," I said, "we've got stuff to trim a tree from last year. Old man Fuller must know how bad the roads have been. I'll bet he's got a great big one saved for us. As soon as the roads clear a bit, I'll go get it."

"You're right, Joe," she said. "I'm a silly goose. I'll dig through my scrap bag and see if I can't make a few things to put under the tree." She doubled her hand under her chin and tapped the side of her mouth with a finger. I could almost hear wheels turning as she began thinking out loud. "I could make a few bean bags and I used to be pretty good at fixing up rag dolls."

Looking at her with her head cocked and her finger tapping, I felt better, too. I made up my mind to get the biggest Christmas tree our front room would hold.

WELL, when I got to old man Fuller's place, he wasn't there. His neighbor, Jim Krause, said the old man's daughter who lives in the city came and made him go back with her and her husband. Jim said the old man had been ailing or he'd never have listened to his daughter.

This put me in a spot. Mr. Fuller is the only man in these parts who makes a business of raising and selling Christmas trees. After Jim went away I stood around and thought for a spell. After all, it would take more nerve than I've got to cut down a tree and drag it home without first getting the old man's O.K.

Perhaps the weather would get better so I could drive to town and buy a tree. Harpersville was only twenty-five miles away.

But it began snowing again, harder than ever. Finally, here comes this night before Christmas, and no tree.

Our three kids—two boys and a girl—had gone sound asleep and maybe dreamed of a tree, toys, and candy with a turkey dinner like we'd had last year. Daisy and I were sitting by the front window looking out. The air looked like it smelt white. It was full of lazy snowflakes coming down quietly.

We're near the main road and we could see the highway lights making things sparkle. It was real pretty. Even my old vegetable stand loaded with snow was like part of a picture.

Daisy's eyes were shiny and her nose red. She thought I couldn't see her wiping away tears each time she turned her head.

"Least, we've got a roof over our heads. We're not starving. You're getting stronger every day," I said.

"Yes," she sniffed, "and we got each other—but—" and she began to cry. "Oh Joe, Minnie wants a doll, a real one, awfully bad! Benny's talked so much about a pair of skates so he



Illustrated by WALLY BATTER

could go with the other boys down to the creek this winter. And—and Jimmy is sure he's going to get a sled. I told him we didn't have money this year and he said, 'Mom, you don't need money. Santa's bringing it'."

There was nothing I could say. I walked out of the room.

Daisy's tearful voice followed me. "Joe, if only we could have a tree it wouldn't be so bad. It'd be something like Christmas then."

"I'm going out and get a tree," I said. "I ought to find a fir or pine in the woods somewhere along the road."

BUT when I was in my old jalopy riding down the highway my idea didn't seem good any more. Here I was wasting gasoline and not at all sure I'd find a Christmas tree. Some of the farms near mine had a few evergreens but asking them to sell me one would have been asking them to give me one free. Their wives had been sending over cookies and foodstuff ever since Daisy took sick. I could see that Ted Wightman, Mark Rostrum and the other neighbors were sorry for us. I was sure they wouldn't take money from me. Course, in a way, it makes a man glad he has friends but, again, it makes him feel cheap.

The snow was coming down heavy after I passed Brett Schneider's gas station. Everything was white but the trees near the road. They were black and stiff. I could hardly see anything but snow after a while. There's no heater in my car and the cold air began getting through my clothes and into my hide.

There wasn't a sign of another machine on the road. I commenced talking to myself. "You're a darn fool, Joe Ferguson. You ought to stop

EVERY time one of our three children talked about Christmas, Daisy's eyes got watery. Daisy—she's my wife—came home from the hospital just two weeks before Christmas. Her operation took every cent I could scrape together and left me owing plenty, too.

She hadn't been home two days before we had a snowstorm, the worst we'd had in years. I didn't dare take my old jalopy out and more than a week went by. All this time it kept getting closer and closer to Christmas.

"If only I hadn't been ill," cried Daisy as if she'd been sick on purpose.

"Look honey," I said, "it was just one of those things that couldn't be helped. Like this summer with too much hot sun and bugs, and not enough rain. You aren't blaming me because this was a bad farm year for me."

"I know, Joe, I know. But the operation and hospital cost so much"—she started to cry again.

"You're making all this fuss because the kids won't have a bunch of silly toys," I said. "Haven't they got the best gift of all—you. What if you'd have died in that hospital? You were mighty sick, Daisy."



goose chasing. Every one of these acres belongs to some farmer in these parts. You'll get no tree unless you go all the way to Blackstrip forest or ten miles farther to town. What if you get stuck?

I decided to be sensible and turned around. I guess I'd been riding nearly two miles when I heard a horn blowing.

**T**HERE by the side of the road I saw a trailer truck, one of those great big jobs. I hadn't remembered it passing me. It was so big and such a roaring red color I ought to have seen it, snow or no snow but I didn't do much figuring about it. I drove along side and asked, "What's your trouble?"

The driver shouted back, "Out of gas. We been hoping someone would come by."

"I haven't any to spare," I told him. "If I give you any of mine, I'd have to push my car home."

"I didn't mean that," he hollers. "But you could drive me to the nearest gas station to get a few gallons. Then I'd be able to roll to the station with this baby and fill her up. I'm in a hurry. Got lots of stops to make before morning."

Well, what could a man do? I couldn't leave him stuck there. "O.K." I said. But it began to seem that I'd have been much smarter never to have left home. All this wasting of gasoline, and no tree.

The man was a big fellow dressed in dungarees and a sheepskin lined brown jacket that came way down past his hips. He had on a red stocking cap with flaps. His fat face looked like it needed a shave.

"Wait a second," he says, going around to the back of the trailer. He raps hard on it and yells, "Snappy!"

The top part of the back opened and a thin face pokes out. It belonged to a man wearing a kid's green stocking cap with a big orange tassel.

"Snappy," says the big fellow, "keep awake and watch things. I'll be back in a slide and a holler."

"Yes, Mr. Claus," says Snappy as he ducks back and slams the hinged top shut.

Mr. Claus gets in beside me and I look him over again. He looks like a truck driver all right. "Claus?" I say, "That's funny on a night before Christmas. Do you get kidded much about your name?"

"Why should I?" he comes back. "It's a name I'm plenty proud of. It's been in the family for ages and ages."

"Oh sure," I answer. "I can understand that. But right around Christmas, it—don't your friends ask things like 'when are you gonna come down my chimney?' for a joke, you know?"

"That's so. And chimneys are getting smaller every year. That's why I have to use Snappy. Between you and me, he's kind of dumb. I can't depend on him too much. They used to build chimneys wider years ago. Why, there was a time when my great-great-great-grandpop Santa who was twice my size had no trouble at all in getting down chimneys."

For a second, I almost let go of the wheel. I was that flabbergasted. Then it hit me. The fellow was fooling. I figured I'd give it right back. "Where's your red suit and your beard?" I asked.

"I'm wearing the suit under my coveralls," he says. "As for the beard I don't wear it unless the youngsters are up and awake. It's false, you know."

"Quit kidding," I tells him. "I wasn't born yesterday. I found out when I was a little kid that there isn't any Santa Claus."

"After all these years, you'd think people would learn something." He sounded kind of mad and disgusted. "Beats me why we bother. We try to make kids happy by loading their stockings. And what happens? They grow up and don't believe in anything or anybody."

I couldn't be sure I was hearing straight. I didn't know what to say. I was glad that by now we were in Brett Schneider's gas station.

**O**N the way back I suddenly got wise to what was wrong. It was as clear as rain that this fellow was cracked. It seemed too bad. He acted O.K. in other ways. Perhaps having the name of Claus was the reason. I'd heard of folks having queer names, being kidded a lot about them, and going nuts after a while.

As I said before, he was a big fellow. I'm skinny. Kind of short, too. A driver of a truck that size ought to be big and strong. I looked at him, on the seat beside me, holding a heavy can of gasoline in his hands which were like big paws. I knew he believed he was Santa Claus when he said in a serious voice. "Now tell me, Mister, you didn't mean that crack—

about not believing there is a Santa Claus, did you?"

"Of course there is a Santa Claus," I said. He could have made two of me. I'm no scaredy cat but it wouldn't have made good sense to ask to have my head bashed in — not right before Christmas with Daisy waiting back home for me.

Funny the way he loosened up then and got jolly. And the whoppers he told! All about life on the North Pole, what it was like. He told how the other Clauses divided up the jobs and how they went to different places with their bags on Christmas Eve.

I could see that everything would be fine if I pretended to believe him. "What happened to your reindeer?" I asked. "Why are you driving a truck?"

"A sled's old fashioned," he said. "My brother Amo won't give it up though. He can't cover the territory I can with my truck. He doesn't care, he says, the children expect him to come in a sled with reindeer. But he's the only one of us Clauses who does."

"What about airplanes?" I asked. "Any of the Santas use them?"

"Sure," he answers, "for the far away places you need to fly these days. Years ago, not so many people knew what time it was on the other side of the globe. Nowadays everyone's smartened up. Little kids in China and Egypt wouldn't like to wait a month or two until we could get to all of them. They'd think something was wrong. Two of my brothers and a dozen cousins make the rounds of the world in a couple of days. I'm not good at figuring the time but it's a day or two later in other places right now. Or maybe—no—I guess it's earlier." Mr. Claus pushed back his cap and scratched his head. His hair was dark and bushy. I knew he was nutty, all right.

"Yes, siree," says Mr. Claus. "I never cared for flying or even for trains. Now my oldest brother, Rudnoor is crazy about slick streamlined trains. He won't ride anything else. But me, give me a truck any day. Why, when I was little and was put in the toy shops, I headed straight for the trucks. When I was a baby, I crawled and pushed the small ones across Great Uncle Santa's front room. You see, there's always a few of us Clauses named Santa. It's a popular name in our family. And Mister, when I got bigger, I'd sit on those metal jobs made like trucks, and push along with my feet. Why, I

wasn't much more than a boy when I drove my first truck."

Mr. Claus was getting all excited. His eyes were shining and he was moving his fingers around the gasoline can in his lap like it was the wheel of a truck. And me? I got so interested, I believed him for a spell.

"Yes, siree," said Mr. Claus, "give me a truck any time. They're dandy for kids. Not that I give all children toy trucks. Little girls always want dolls most. But on this load, I've got some toy red trailer trucks which are dead ringers for mine."

**I** THOUGHT of my Minnie. Gosh, I wished all this crazy talk was really true. Just thinking of Minnie's wide blue eyes getting full of tears tomorrow with no tree and only a patchy rag doll, and well, gosh! Here was a fellow spouting off about all the toys he was bringing to children. I guess something got into me. Wouldn't it be great if he was all he pretended to be? First thing I knew I was telling about Minnie wanting a doll, about Beuny wanting some skates, and little Jimmy really sure he'd get that sled. I even told about my bad luck in not getting a tree. I suppose I let my tongue run away with me. But I was all wound up and I felt better when I got the whole business off my chest.

The truck driver had a loud deep laugh. "Ollie Claus is the right one to tell," he said. "Would either of the boys like a truck? I get a kick out of giving a truck."

The way he talked, it was plain he was nothing but a truck driver. But he was a friendly fellow. Thinking he was a Santa Claus, he chuckled a lot. Must have been practising a long time. His jolly "Ho! Ho! Ho!" sounded like the Santa Claus voice we heard on the radio.

When we got to his truck, he poured the gasoline into the tank. "In over twenty years of driving," he said, "this is the only time I ever got stuck without gas."

**F**OR a minute, I thought he was going to say he'd been fooling right along—that he was just a truck driver. But no, he goes on to say, "You know we use a special gasoline up at North Pole. It's got atomic stuff in it so it goes faster, lasts longer, and never lets your car freeze up. I always fill her up. Tonight I left it to Snappy. I should have

## The Tillers

by JIM ZILVEBERG



checked. He's not reliable. I'll bet he didn't put any in."

I couldn't take any more. Not on Christmas Eve. "I must be getting back home, with or without a tree," I said. "My wife'll be worried about me. I've been gone too long. Good-by, Mr. Claus."

"Now don't worry about a thing," he said, grinning and waving. "I'll see that your children get what they want, Merry Christmas!"

I was glad to get away. Thinking about all I'd told him, I felt like a fool, too. Hanging around him much longer would make me daffy for sure, I thought.

I headed straight for home and drove into the old shed. I waited a spell before getting nerve enough to

go into the house. I sure hated to face Daisy without a tree. I'd seen her face pressed against the window as I drove in and I knew she'd think something was wrong if I didn't go in soon.

WHEN I started up the porch, I thought I was seeing things. A good-sized fir tree was leaning against the side of the steps. Near it was a great canvas bag.

I dragged the tree and bag up to the front door. Daisy, all excited, flung open the door.

When I got the things into the room I saw a tag with my name printed on it and fastened to the bag. "Merry Christmas, Joe Ferguson!" it said.

The bag was filled with presents.

Daisy and I pulled out bundles of food, fancy stuff like candy, nuts, a cake, cookies, and even a big stuffed turkey, ready for cooking.

"They shouldn't have done this," said Daisy. "God bless them!"

I was a little deeper in the bag, yanking out a sled. "Daisy," I said, "Who do you think sent this to us?"

"Why, our neighbors must have got together," she answered.

I squatted on my heels and stared at the big doll in my hand. "This stuff must have cost plenty," I said. "I don't think the neighbors could afford to spend so much on us."

"It must have been the neighbors," said Daisy. "No one else would do it. What makes you think different?"

"Well, now, I met someone to-night who—" then I shook my head. It just wasn't possible. But I guess I was just hoping. I'm the kind of person who doesn't feel right knowing folks feel sorry for him.

"What's the matter?" said Daisy. "What were you going to say?"

"You were by the window when I drove in, weren't you, Daisy?" I asked. "Did you see a great roaring red trailer truck stop out front?"

"No, I didn't," she said. "Why?"

"Then it must have been the neighbors," I said.

"Of course it was. And they didn't put any names in the bag because they know how queer you are about getting something for nothing. What's the matter?"

I guess I did look funny at that moment. My hand was still in the bag and was touching something big and cold. When I lifted the thing out, what do you suppose it was?

It was a kid's toy truck—a roaring red trailer truck—exactly like the big one Mr. Claus drove!



## Say "Merry Christmas" with ROYAL BANK MONEY ORDERS!

A gift of cash is always welcome—and when you buy your money orders this year be sure to get them at your nearest Royal Bank branch. *With each Royal Bank Money Order you'll get—at no extra cost—an envelope and a mailing folder in gay Christmas colours, with which to send your gift and personal greetings.*

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**THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA**

## Raspberries Jumped to Spring

THEY are trying to make raspberries jump the seasons and fruit earlier in England. Raspberry plants go through 9 phases of development in 2 years and the phases are closely related to the seasons. They can be made to fruit in 6 months with an artificial climate, which can be changed rapidly. But at Nottingham University they are now trying to speed up the change from one phase to the next with gibberellic acid.

If this works, it will mean that a chemical can produce the same response in a crop as changes of climate. Taken further, the same process could cancel out the effects of a bad season by artificial means. If the crop were wheat or rice, the world's food situation could be changed.

In the raspberry experiment, the plants grow normally during the first summer, but instead of going dormant in the fall, gibberellic acid is applied to the tips of their shoots and they continue to grow. It is as if fall had been changed to spring. The next step is to try another crop, such as sugar beets, which would be able to make better use of good weather later in the year if it could be made to produce a larger leaf area.



# Home and Family



[Miller Services photo]

## Adoration Then as Now . . .

**I**S it not fitting that young voices and faces should rise in Christmas carols? The caroling is merry. Merriment is fundamental to a birthday celebration. And this is the most significant birthday of all. The songs are sung to the nativity of One who came as a child . . . One who, in a life span measured short in our terms, gave spiritual leadership needed then, as now . . . One who worked then, in His comparatively small world, that men of many races

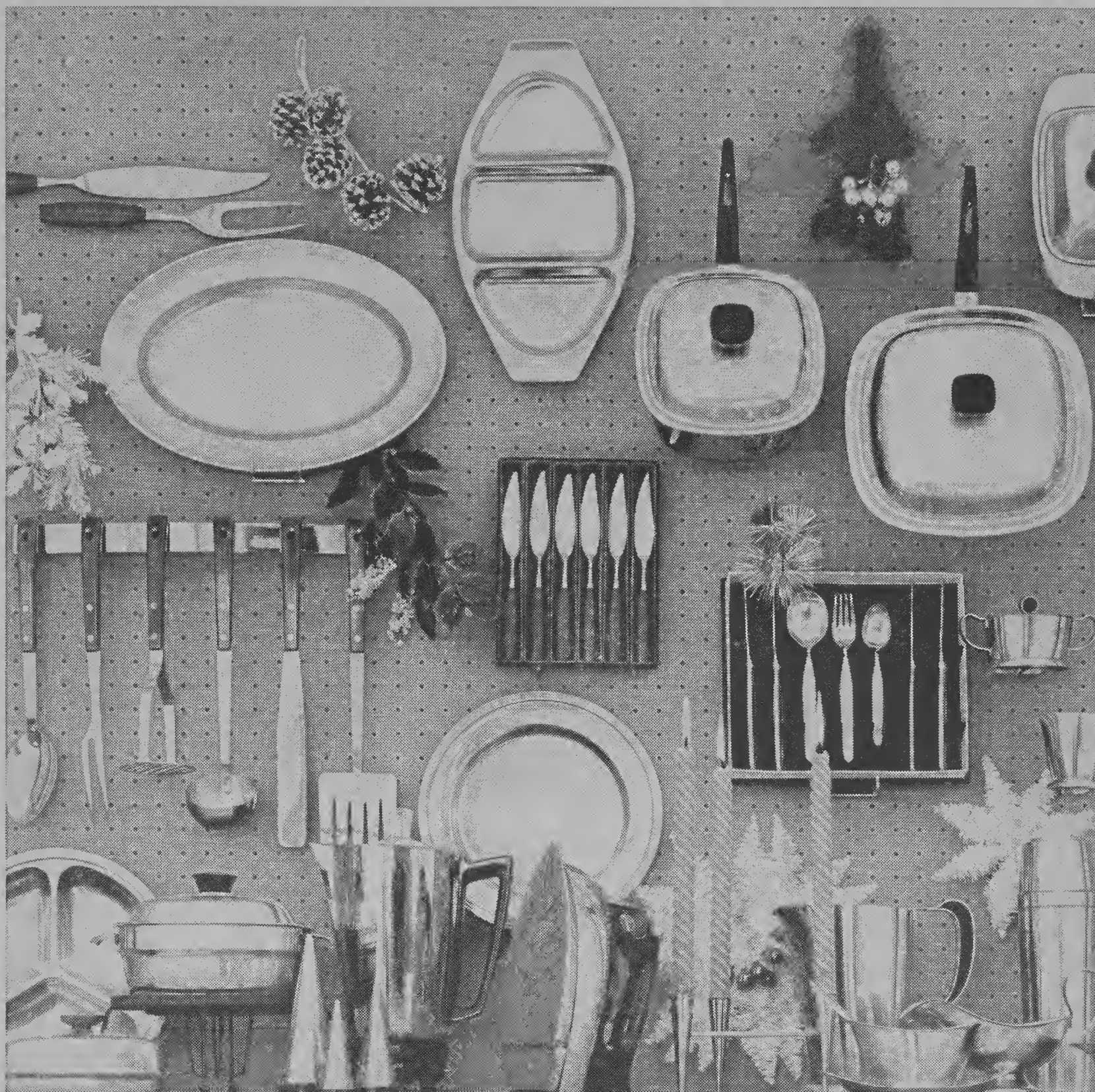
might live as brothers; a vital pressing problem in our time when all the world is our neighborhood.

It is difficult to sing without raising face with voice. And we must look up in joyful praise of the birth of a Leader whose laws had as their aim, our desire

**Peace on Earth  
 Good Will Toward Men.**

**G.L.**





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*This unique little hospital  
offers a necessary service to  
the homemakers of the future*

# Her Hobby Is Their Living

by PHYLLIS M. HODGSON

**I**T'S a small hospital. No ambulances with wailing sirens speed to the side entrance. Never has there been a shortage of beds for the hundreds of patients admitted each year.

Where is this unique place? It's Vera and Carl Sirmul's Hospital for Dolls in the heart of downtown Vancouver.

Combined with the hospital there is a well stocked shop of dolls and a dolls' dressmaking department. To small girls—and those not so small—it's a house of magic, closely akin to Santa Claus Land at the North Pole. To its owner, it's a fascinating and flourishing business that has grown from a childhood hobby.

Mrs. Sirmul says: "All my life I have loved dolls. I started making dolls when I was just a small girl. My first attempts were with rag and papier-mache, and I made them with the urge to create things of beauty—never as mere playthings. If anyone had told me then that one day my hobby would develop into a business, well, I would have laughed at such a thought."

Her artistic talent, creative power and love of her work have produced beautiful dolls—cuddly baby dolls, clowns, elves, gnomes and pierrots; dancing dolls and fashionable ladies wearing magnificent hair styles, dressed in rich brocades and shimmering satins; and demure little maids with blue eyes and long flaxen braids dressed in the native costume of her own country, Latvia.

For these works of art it was first necessary to make a clay model. When the clay was thoroughly dry it was masked in copper, and from the copper mask the finished form was made in fine velvets or silks in delicately tinted flesh shades. When she realized that her childhood hobby was no longer a hobby, that it was fast developing into a business and that she needed more room for her work, she and her husband, Carl, ventured into their own business. Acquiring a small building in their native town of Riga, Latvia, they added soft toys to their great assortment of dolls. As the small factory flourished, its staff soon grew from two to a dozen or more workers.

Then came the war with its devastation and the Sirmuls' thoughts turned to Canada.

"We talked Canada, we read about Canada, and we studied the language. To us, Canada was a land of promise." But it was not until 1948 that their dream of a new life in Canada be-

came a reality. They arrived in Vancouver with few worldly assets, but blessed with the great amounts of courage, optimism and faith necessary to start life afresh in a strange country.

**I**T was a great disappointment to find very little demand in Canada for handmade dolls—the creations on which she had built her reputation. For this reason their first store was stocked mostly with factory made dolls and stuffed toys. But this did not satisfy Mrs. Sirmul's urge to create. She wanted very much to do something with her hands—not just sell dolls—and it was then she thought of a doll's hospital. She knows there is much sadness when little mothers break their dolls and she saw in this venture an opportunity to again create beauty, by restoring battered dolls and giving joy to young hearts.

A peep behind the scenes in the Sirmul's shop is a fascinating experience. The doll surgery in the rear of the shop is well stocked with heads, eyes, arms and legs. Surgical instruments comprise mainly a small saw, pliers and wire clippers. Husband Carl does such jobs as soldering and welding, while with skilful touches Mrs. Sirmul reconstructs doll faces and bodies; repaints them; and replaces faded, disfigured eyes with shining new orbs.

Tousled, matted hair is replaced with glamorous lifelike hair. Wigs—dark or blond, long or short, or the popular pony tail—Mrs. Sirmul makes them all. Hair is imported from Eng-



*Little girls' hearts and their dolls' broken limbs are mended at this doll hospital.*

land and while it is artificial, it closely resembles human hair. Easy to work with, it stands up to the rough usage young mothers give their dolls, according to Mrs. Sirmul, even when the urge arises to do a shampoo and wave job.

The sewing room where the dolls' wardrobes are made to order is an exciting place. Boxes and drawers spill over with silks and satins and ribbons of rainbow hues.

Extra help is engaged at the Christmas season, and then the hum of the

machine and the snip of scissors transform the small room into a veritable hive of industry. Here are displayed on doll-sized dress hangers bridal gowns, lovely with seed pearls; formal gowns glittering with sequins; and smart cotton dresses and sports wear. One doll outfit even included blue jeans.

**V**ERA Sirmul still thinks lovingly of the dolls she has known through the years. She recalls wax dolls with their rosy cheeks and blue eyes, but shudders to think of their ugly cotton and sawdust bodies. Dolls with china heads, kid bodies and movable joints were beautiful but frequently met disaster with their first tumble. Then came the more practical, hard bodied dolls made of composition, to be followed by those of rubber. Then it was discovered the rubber soon deteriorated.

Toy manufacturers have since come up with today's beautiful dolls, with soft yet durable bodies, perfect little finger and toe nails and adorable dimples. Yet even these beauties, made from various well tested plastics, present problems for them, too, are often difficult to mend.

"All the dolls that come into the hospital are of course, valuable dolls," Mrs. Sirmul says with a smile. "Some have historic value, others just sentimental value—but to their owners, each one is precious."

Among these precious dolls was one that crossed the Canadian prairies (Please turn to page 42)



*Dolls of older times such as these required individual skill. A clay model was first made, then a copper mask. The finished bodies were made of silk or velvet.*



### Her Hobby (from previous page)

in a covered wagon over 100 years ago, and in its lifetime survived fire and flood and other dangers.

A Chinese doll with almond shaped eyes and cheeks as delicately tinted as a lotus blossom was ready to be discharged. No one would suspect she had been admitted to the hospital with a battered face, tousled hair and broken fingers. Nor would they suspect she had seen 50 birthdays.

One of the most interesting dolls to be brought in to be refurbished, according to Mrs. Sirmul, was a model of the Child Jesus that was over 80

years old. Think how many children have lovingly handled this treasure over the years!

A special customer was a little girl who came in with a very ordinary doll. "Please—how much would a new leg cost?" she asked, all the while fingering the clasp of her shabby little purse. When she was assured that her doll could be fixed up for a dollar, her face lit up with the sweetest smile.

"Oh thank you so much. I'll leave her then, and here are her hospital clothes," she said, proudly handing a small suitcase over the counter.

As long as there are little girls, there will always be dolls and a need for the Sirmuls' unique hospital. ✓

## Make a Christmas Wreath



[Canada Starch photo]

The Christmas wreath is a decorative feature inside or on the house door.

THE hanging of a Christmas wreath is one of our most popular yuletide customs. The circular wreath, symbolizing eternity, is most common. Some people prefer a triangular wreath, representing the Trinity. Still others fashion their greens in a spray or swag.

If you have access to evergreens you may wish to make wreaths for a friend's home as well as your own. To make a circular wreath you will need a frame, easily made from two coat hangers. Bend one of the hangers (without unwinding it below the hook)

into a circle. Unwind the second hanger and bend it to form a ring larger than the first one. With fine wire, fasten the large ring to the hook of the small one. Then wrap fine wire around both rings, forming a rigid frame.

Cut evergreen tips in 4- or 5-inch lengths. Wire the tips into clusters of five, leaving extra wire at the ends so that the cluster may be wired to the frame. Lay clusters on the frame until you achieve a pleasing effect. Then, fasten securely with wire. If both sides of the wreath will show, wire evergreens in clusters to both sides of the frame. Trim the wreath as desired with cones, colored tree ornaments, etc. Decorate it with everlasting snow and a big red bow.

### Everlasting Snow

Combine 2 tablespoons soap flakes with  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup cool or lukewarm water in a large bowl. Beat the mixture with rotary beater until the suds are stiff and dry. Slowly add  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup cold water starch, beating mixture constantly. Apply the snow to the wreath, using your fingers or a paint brush. This snow mixture may be applied to evergreens and dry branches to be used in other festive decorations and centerpieces. Dry wreath or brushes completely before hanging or arranging them. ✓

## Gift Plants

DON'T be too disappointed if the house plant you got for Christmas or the New Year does not last as long as you had hoped. The modern home, in wintertime, is not such as to encourage extra blooms. Among other things, the temperature is generally too high and the humidity too low.

However, there are some things you can do to keep them blooming longer. Your plants need ample sunlight, and an atmosphere of cool, moist air. Night temperatures should be 60 degrees or lower, so it is worthwhile to move your plants to the coolest room at night. The exception to this is the poinsettia, which likes warm nights, and does not relish sudden changes of temperature.

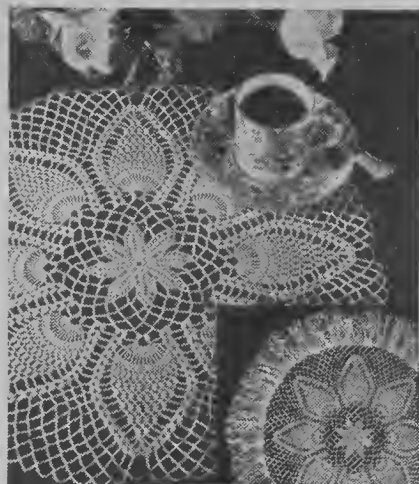
The humidity in many homes is far

too low for most house plants. Humidifiers or pans of water placed on radiators or registers will help. Another way to provide humidity is to stand the plant pots on trays of gravel which are kept moist. When the soil has dried out so that it crumbles in the hand, it is usually preferable to stand the pots in water, until the surface of the soil appears moist, rather than pour water on the top of the soil. However, it is not good practice to stand the pot continuously in water.

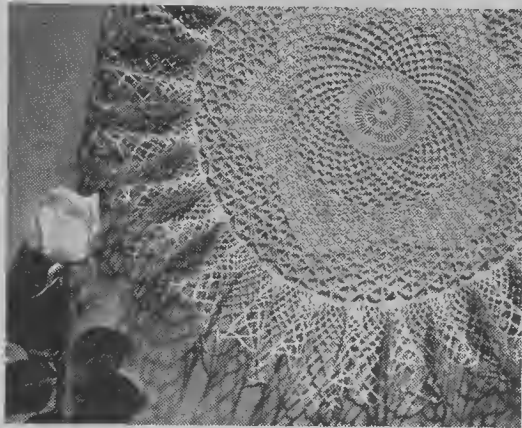
House plants will produce better results if kept away from drafts. Also if you use cooking gas, it would be well to remember that all plants are very susceptible to any unburned gas that escapes into the air. These conditions could cause both flowers and leaves to drop off. ✓

## HANDICRAFTS

### Dainty Doilies

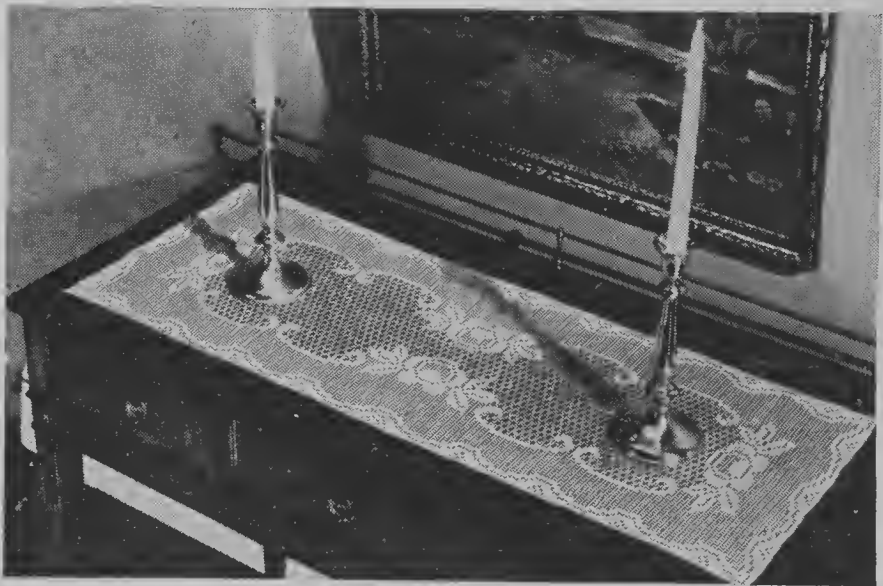


Pineapple Print is the name given this crocheted doily. It may be made with or without ruffles and measures 12" in diameter plain, 18" in diameter with ruffle. You will need a No. 10 hook. Price of Leaflet No. C-S-394 is 10 cents.



Rock Pool is a more formal doily pattern. Center and ruffle are crocheted with a No. 10 hook. Doily measures 15" in diameter, including ruffle. Price of Leaflet C-S-592 is 10 cents.

The center of this dainty Whirlpool doily is knitted; the ruffle is crocheted. Doily diameter measures 16" including ruffle. For knitting and crochet directions, order Leaflet K-S-583. Price 10 cents.



A chart is diagramed on Leaflet C-7399 for this lovely runner. The pattern name is Queen of the Garden. Finished measure is about 15" x 43". You will need a No. 10 crochet hook. Price 10 cents.

For handicraft patterns pictured above please address your order to The Country Guide Needlework Dept., 1760 Ellice Ave., Winnipeg 12, Man.



# Ladies in Waiting



No. 9119. Shown over trim pants, this smart smock features a cowl collar and deep side pleats. Pants and skirt pattern have kangaroo styling. Misses' sizes 10, 12, 14, 16. Price 50 cents.



No. 9120. Top stitching highlights this appealing maternity jumper. Package includes smock with puffed sleeves, separate skirt pattern. Misses' sizes 10, 12, 14, 16. Price 50 cents.



No. 9190. Two smock lengths plus three neckline changes make this outfit versatile. Dickey, scarf or standaway collar may be worn at the neck. A back pleat in the smock gives fullness. The skirt features a kangaroo front. Misses' sizes 10, 12, 14, 16. Price 50 cents.



No. 6425. A transfer, as well as embroidery instructions, are included in the pattern package for this layette. Ribbon is required for cap, wrapper, sacque, nightgown, slip, and booties. In one size only. Price 50 cents.

## The Country Guide Pattern Department

1760 Ellice Ave.,  
Winnipeg 12, Man.

528 Evans Ave.,  
Toronto 14, Ont.

Please send Butterick

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# Festive Foods

by GWEN LESLIE



JACK DAWSON

## What a Difference!

"I wouldn't have believed it. I used to feel bushed at night. Then I had a Duro pump and water system put on the farm, and later I had a real bathroom and a smart new kitchen sink installed.

"Well, when I finish now, I have a shower and get changed, and I feel like a new man. My wife thinks the whole thing is great, and so do the youngsters."

Any farm homemaker who wants better living and wants information on how to install running water and on modernization, can write to Emco, London, for free information.

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EMCO LIMITED,  
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Please send me information about Duro Water Systems, and about Emco's OHI Budget Plan.

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## EAR NOISES relieved!

...thousands reported.

Wonderful relief from years of suffering from miserable ear noises and poor hearing caused by catarrhal (excess fluid mucus) conditions of the head! That's what these folks (many past 70) reported after using our simple Elmo Palliative HOME TREATMENT during the past 22 years. This may be the answer to your prayer. NOTHING TO WEAR. Here are SOME of the symptoms that may likely go with your catarrhal deafness and ear noises: Mucus dropping in throat. Head feels stopped up by mucus. Mucus in nose or throat every day. Hear—but don't understand words. Hear better on clear days—worse on bad days, or with a cold. Ear noises like crickets, bells, whistles, clicking or escaping steam or others. You, too, may enjoy wonderful relief if your poor hearing or ear noises are caused by catarrhal conditions of the head and when the treatment is used as needed. Write TODAY for PROOF OF RELIEF and 30 DAY TRIAL OFFER. THE ELMO CO., Dept. FCG9, Davenport, Iowa



## Half a Century

That's how long The Guide has been a part of the Canadian farm scene. So many things have changed in that time. New machines, new crop varieties, new breeding methods, new ways of doing just about everything, have made the farmer's job more and more complicated. Through all this, The Country Guide has changed too, but has never altered its purpose, which is to keep the farmer informed of the important developments as they occur.



Christmas wreath is a tender sweet bread with mincemeat nut filling.

FOOD also takes to holiday dress for the Christmas season. Company dinner menus and tables set for casual drop-in guests may provide a colorful array of fancy foods which express hospitality at its eating best.

Cold drinks may have a refreshing light base of fruit juice or a richer one of milk.

Paprika Cheese Straws are crisp—a flavorful nibble with fruit salad appetizers, jellied salads and beverages.

Finger foods are popular. Serve these tangy dips with potato chips, crackers and sea foods. Spiced prunes are a novel garnish for snack trays.

Buffet Meat Balls are an addition to a smorgasbord-type buffet table.

Fruited sweet breads, welcome at breakfast or with tea and evening coffee, may be given distinctive Christmas shape and flavor.

Coconut Delight will be a year-round favorite. Its pastel frosting provides a foil for shortbread on holiday-time cookie plates.

Party Bonbons and Spiced Nuts will be gobbled up with enthusiasm. You won't mind a bit because it's so easy to make more.

### Three Fruit Punch

- 2 6-oz. cans frozen orange juice concentrate
- 1 6-oz. can frozen limeade concentrate
- 1 6-oz. can frozen grapefruit juice concentrate
- 9 c. cold water
- 1 qt. ginger ale

Combine undiluted concentrates with 5 cups of water. Add remaining 4 cups of water. To serve, add ice cubes and ginger ale. Garnish with orange and lemon or lime slices, and red and green cherries if desired.

### Eggnog

- 6 eggs, separated
  - ¾ c. sugar
  - 1 pt. milk
  - 1 pt. cream
- Flavoring as desired  
Nutmeg

Beat egg whites very stiff; add ¼ cup of the sugar. Beat egg yolks with remaining ½ cup sugar. Fold whites into yolks. Stir in milk and cream and flavor as desired. Serve chilled in small glasses or punch cups, sprinkling each serving with grated nutmeg.

### Paprika Cheese Straws

- 1¼ c. sifted all-purpose flour
- ¾ c. chilled process cheese spread
- 2 to 4 T. ice water
- ½ c. chilled shortening
- 1 egg white, slightly beaten
- Paprika

Sift measured flour into a bowl. Add cheese spread and shortening. Using a pastry blender or two knives, cut cheese and shortening into the flour until mixture resembles coarse cornmeal. Mix in water a tablespoon at a time, using just enough water so that dough will cling together. Chill.

Roll half the dough into a rectangle, 8" wide and ¼" thick. Brush lightly with slightly beaten egg white and sprinkle with paprika. Use a pastry wheel or sharp knife to cut dough in strips ½" wide and 4" long. Arrange strips, slightly apart, on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 400°F (hot oven) until cooked and delicately golden (about 5 to 8 minutes). Watch carefully to prevent burning.

Remove cooked straws from cookie sheet and cool on cake racks. Repeat cutting and baking with remaining dough. Store straws in a covered tin, and serve cold or reheated with soup, sweet or savory salads, and beverages. If cheese straws are to be stored for a long period, they may be frozen.

### Stuffed Pickled Prunes

- ½ c. granulated sugar
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- ¼ tsp. cloves
- ½ tsp. nutmeg
- ½ c. vinegar
- 1 c. water
- 2 dozen large prunes
- Process cheese spread
- 24 pccan or walnut halves

Combine sugar, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg in a saucepan. Stir in vinegar and water and boil together, stirring until sugar is dissolved (about 2 minutes). Add prunes; cover and cook 5 minutes. Cool and allow prunes to stand in the spicy syrup several hours or overnight. Drain prunes and remove the pits. Stuff each prune with cheese spread and top with a nutmeat. Chill until time to serve.

### Garlic Dip

- ½ c. commercial sour cream
- ½ c. mayonnaise
- 2 to 3 garlic buds
- 1 tsp. salt
- ½ c. chili sauce
- ¼ tsp. pepper

Blend sour cream and mayonnaise together. Put garlic through a garlic press into sour cream mixture. Or alternatively mince garlic, blend with salt



Seafood, crisp crackers and potato chips are finger foods for dipping in selected sauces.

and add to sour cream mixture. Add remaining ingredients. Makes 1½ cups of dip.

### Curry Sauce and Dip

- 2 T. butter or margarine
- ½ c. chopped onion
- 2 to 3 T. curry powder
- 1 c. chicken broth
- ½ c. heavy cream
- ½ c. blanched almonds
- 6 T. lemon juice

Melt butter or margarine. Add onion and cook until onion is soft. Add curry powder and stir to blend. Add chicken broth and cream. (A chicken bouillon cube and 1 cup water may be substituted). Grate almonds on a fine grater or sliver finely; add to sauce. Cook, stirring frequently, until thickened. Stir in lemon juice. Strain through fine strainer. Reheat to serve with fish cakes or other fish. This is a good dip for shrimp. Makes 1 cup of sauce.

### Crunchy Bacon Dip

- ½ c. cooked chopped bacon
- ½ c. cream cheese (4 oz.)
- 2 tsp. catsup
- 1 tsp. prepared mustard
- ¼ tsp. ground ginger
- ¼ c. dairy soured cream
- Potato chips or crackers

Soften cream cheese. Add catsup, mustard, ginger, soured cream, and bacon. Blend well. Serve with potato chips or crackers.

### Buffet Meat Balls

- 1½ lb. ground beef
- ¾ c. evaporated milk
- ½ c. fine cracker crumbs
- 1½ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. peppercorn
- ¼ c. flour
- 1 tsp. dry mustard
- ¼ c. finely chopped onion
- ½ c. chopped green pepper
- 3 T. shortening

Combine beef, evaporated milk, crumbs, seasonings, onion and green pepper. Shape in 60 small balls. Roll in flour. Brown on all sides in hot shortening in frying pan. Stick toothpick through each meat ball. Serve with sauce for dipping.

### Dipping Sauce

- 2 T. butter
- 2 T. flour
- 1 large can evaporated milk
- 1 pkg. dry onion soup mix
- ½ c. chopped parsley

Melt butter in saucepan over low heat. Stir in flour. Slowly stir in evaporated milk. Cook over medium heat, stirring, until mixture thickens and begins to boil. Stir in soup mix and parsley. Serve sauce hot with meat balls.

\* \* \*

### Key to Abbreviations

- tsp.—teaspoon
- T.—tablespoon
- c.—cup
- pkg.—package
- oz.—ounce
- lb.—pound
- pt.—pint
- qt.—quart

### Christmas Wreaths

$\frac{1}{2}$ c. milk	1 tsp. sugar
$\frac{1}{2}$ c. sugar	$4\frac{1}{2}$ c. sifted all-purpose flour
$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt	Soft butter or margarine
$\frac{1}{4}$ c. shortening	1 c. well drained mincemeat
$\frac{1}{2}$ c. lukewarm water	$\frac{1}{2}$ c. chopped walnuts or pecans
1 pkg. active dry yeast	
2 eggs, well beaten	

Scald milk. Stir in  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. sugar, salt and shortening. Cool to lukewarm.

Measure lukewarm water into a large bowl. Stir in 1 teaspoon sugar. Sprinkle with yeast, let stand 10 minutes, then stir well. Stir in lukewarm milk mixture, beaten eggs, and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cups of the flour. Beat until smooth and elastic. Stir in sufficient additional flour to make a soft dough (about 2 cups more). Turn dough out on floured board or canvas. Knead until smooth and elastic. Place dough in a greased bowl, grease top of dough and cover. Let rise in a warm place, free from draft, until doubled in bulk (about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours).

Punch down dough and turn out on lightly floured board or canvas. Knead until smooth. Divide dough in 2 equal portions. Roll one half into a rectangle 14" by 12". Brush generously with soft butter or margarine and spread with half the mincemeat and half the nuts. Beginning at a 14" edge, roll up, jelly-roll fashion. Seal seams. Lift carefully to a greased cookie sheet and form a circle. Seal ends together. Using scissors or a sharp knife, cut slices 1" apart, cutting almost through to the center. Turn each slice partly on its side.

Repeat with second half of dough. Brush tops with melted butter or margarine. Cover. Let rise in a warm place, free from draft, until doubled in bulk (about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour). Bake at 350°F (moderate oven) for 20 to 25 minutes.

While wreaths are still warm, spread the tops with Confectioners' Icing and decorate with candied or well-drained maraschino cherries, silver dragee and slivers of angelica or candied citron. Finish with a gay red bow of ribbon or cellulose film and bits of Christmas greens.

### Cocoon Delight

20 graham wafers, crushed	$1\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. flour
$\frac{1}{2}$ c. melted butter	1 can sweetened condensed milk
$\frac{1}{2}$ c. brown sugar	2 c. fine coconut

Mix wafer crumbs, butter, sugar and flour thoroughly. Press evenly on bottom of 8" square pan. Bake at 275°F (very slow oven) for 15 minutes.

Mix coconut with condensed milk and spread over baked base. Return to oven at 375°F. (moderately hot oven) for just a few minutes, until golden brown.

Cool completely before frosting with a butter icing, tinted pink with cherry juice.

### Party Bonbons

$\frac{3}{4}$ c. chocolate chips	$\frac{1}{4}$ c. light cream
1 pkg. butterscotch instant pudding	$\frac{1}{4}$ c. peanut butter
	$\frac{1}{2}$ c. chopped nuts

Melt chocolate in top of double boiler over hot water. Cool slightly. Combine remaining ingredients. Mix thoroughly, then roll in 1" balls.

Dip balls in slightly cooled chocolate, using two forks. Place on wax paper-covered tray and chill until firm. Makes  $1\frac{1}{2}$  dozen.

### Spiced Nuts

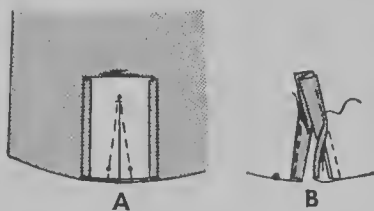
$\frac{1}{4}$ c. sugar	2 tsp. unbeaten egg white
1 c. nut halves	
1 tsp. cinnamon	

Mix nuts and egg white. Stir together sugar and cinnamon. Coat nuts with sugar mixture. Bake at 300°F (slow oven) about 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cool. ✓

## Clip and Save Sewing Hints

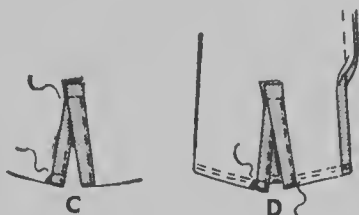
### Sleeve with Band Cuff

Sleeve Placket. Cut a facing  $4\frac{1}{4}$ " long by  $3\frac{3}{4}$ " wide. Turn in long edges  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and press.



A. Pin over slash markings in sleeve, right sides together. Stitch through markings, taking an extra stitch across point. Slash.

B. Turn facing to inside, then stitch the pressed edges over seam. Press.



C. Stitch together across upper edge as shown. Turn in front lap at seam. Baste at lower edge.

D. Stitch seam. Press open. Make a row of gathering stitches at lower edge on seam line as shown. Add another row  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below.

Cuff



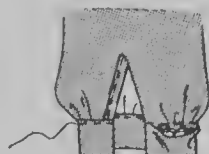
E

E. Baste interfacing to inside over buttonhole marking with one edge at fold line. Trim off lower edge at seam line. Tack invisibly at fold line.



F

F. Fold; stitch ends. Trim seam. Turn. Press.



G

G. Pin right side of cuff to inside of sleeve, notches matched, medium dot at seam and placket edges even. Adjust gathers. Baste. Stitch seam. Press down. Turn in free edge of cuff; baste over seam. Top-stitch.

—courtesy Butterick Sewing Book

# There's nothing like the Party Baba Rings you bake yourself!



If you bake at home—it's easier with Fleischmann's Active Dry Yeast. There's less fuss, less preparation . . . and if you just follow our recipes carefully, you'll never need to worry "will it work?" It will. And you'll feel so proud!

### You'll need for the batter:

- $\frac{2}{3}$  c. milk
- $\frac{1}{2}$  c. granulated sugar
- 1 tsp. salt
- $\frac{3}{4}$  c. butter or Blue Bonnet Margarine
- $\frac{1}{2}$  c. lukewarm water
- 1 tsp. granulated sugar
- 1 envelope Fleischmann's Active Dry Yeast
- 3 well-beaten eggs
- $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp. vanilla
- 3 c. (about) once-sifted all-purpose flour

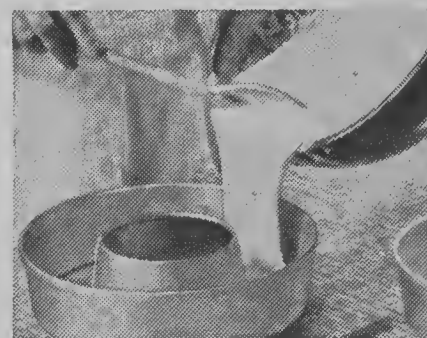
### for the sauce and glaze:

- $1\frac{1}{2}$  c. granulated sugar
- 1 c. water
- 1 tbsp. lemon juice
- $\frac{1}{4}$  c. rum, optional
- Sieved marmalade

1. Scald milk; stir in the  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. sugar, salt and butter or margarine. Cool to lukewarm.



2. Meantime, measure lukewarm water into large bowl; stir in the 1 tsp. sugar. Sprinkle with yeast. Let stand 10 mins., then stir well. Stir in lukewarm milk mixture, well-beaten eggs, vanilla and 2 c. of the flour; stir until smooth. Stir in enough additional flour to make a medium-thick batter—about 1 c. more.



3. Cover with a damp towel. Let rise in warm place, free from draft, until doubled in bulk—about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hrs. Stir down batter; pour into 2 greased 8-cup ring moulds. (Choose pans with large centre holes and only half-fill the pans.) Cover with a damp towel. Let rise until doubled in bulk—about 45 mins. Bake in a mod. oven, 350°, 20 to 25 mins.



4. Meantime, gently boil the  $1\frac{1}{2}$  c. sugar and 1 c. water together for 10 mins. Stir in lemon juice and rum if being used. Drizzle hot Babas with some of the syrup. Cover and allow to mellow 3 or 4 hrs. At serving time, reheat one or both Babas; turn out onto serving plates and brush with marmalade. Fill with ice cream or fruit folded into whipped cream. Flame, if desired, with warm rum. Reheat remaining syrup and pass as a sauce. Makes 2 rings.



# The Country Boy and Girl

## Josie and the Snowmen

by MOLLY ADSHEAD

ONCE upon a time there lived a freckle-faced, snub-nosed, straight-haired little girl, and her name was Josie. Josie had the bluest blue eyes in the whole wide world and an impish smile, when she smiled. But Josie wasn't smiling as she rode her pony home from school this frosty December day. In fact, Josie wasn't happy at all. And the reason was that Josie wanted to be a boy.

Josie had three older brothers, and they had SO much fun! Today, for instance, they galloped off after school while Josie had to follow along on old Paint, who had long since forgotten how to gallop, and so was considered safe for a little girl. Then after supper every night, Josie had to wash the dishes, and she hated washing dishes. She forgot that the boys had harder chores to do. When they had company, Josie had to put on her frilly pink dress and be a little lady, when she would much rather be sliding down the chicken house roof, or playing with the new kittens up in the fragrant hayloft.

The more Josie thought about it, the unhappier she became. She hardly noticed the snow until a big wet snowflake landed smack on her nose. More and more came swirling down, till the air was full of soft white feathery flakes, and she could hardly see the road ahead of her.



But now the road was gone. The snow was coming down so fast that Josie could scarcely see her mittened hands on the pommel of the saddle. Old Paint stopped and shook his head, perhaps to clear the snow from his eyelashes, or else to say he wasn't sure which way to go.

Josie was really frightened now. She yelled at poor old Paint and kicked him in the ribs—but no, he would not budge. Tears were running down Josie's cheeks when suddenly she heard a voice beside her, "Are you Josie, the little girl who'd like to be a boy?"

"Yes I am," sobbed Josie, "If I were a boy I'd be safely home by now."

"Come with me," said the voice. Suddenly old Paint seemed to fly over the snowdrifts and in and out among the trees till all at once they stopped before a dazzling white door.

"Come in, Josie," said the voice, and Josie climbed stiffly down from the saddle. The door opened slowly, and in they went.

"Why it's an ice palace!" cried Josie. She turned around and there beside her was a big snowman in a tall silk hat and coal black eyes. She followed the snowman down a long corridor.

Each side door of the hall was lined with guards—fat white snowmen in tall silk hats. But Josie looked at them with a puzzled frown. They all looked

so sad, and her guide looked sad too. Why, she wondered?

Another door opened, and they came into a huge white room glittering with frost and hung with icicle chandeliers. There were more snowmen all as sad as the others, and at the far end of the room on a frosty throne sat their king, an icy diamond crown on his head. He spoke sternly to Josie as she timidly drew near.

"Josie, I hear you'd rather be a boy."

"Well yes, I would," said Josie in a weak small voice.



"Josie," said the King, "look at you. My palace is full of snowmen—not a snowlady among them! I have no Queen—I have no children—I have no fun! If all the little girls were little boys, t'would be a world of men. There'd be no mothers to tuck little sleepyheads into bed at night; no grandmas or aunties to play with them and love them; no little girls playing with new Christmas dolls. What a sad world it would be!" Josie watched two big tears roll down the Snow King's icy cheeks and freeze into icicles on his chin. "Josie, don't ever wish you were a boy!"

Then her snowman guide led her to Paint and out to the road again. Now the storm was over and the world was clean and sparkling white under a full moon.

Josie was busy thinking; the Snow King was right. If all little girls wished they were little boys and their wishes came true, what a queer world it would be! She was lucky to be a little girl, and she decided to be as good and as happy as she could, from that day on. And wasn't she glad to be home again, too!

"We were just coming to look for you," said her brothers, helping her out of her wet winter clothes.

"There's a bowl of hot soup ready for you," said Josie's mother, giving her a hug and a kiss.

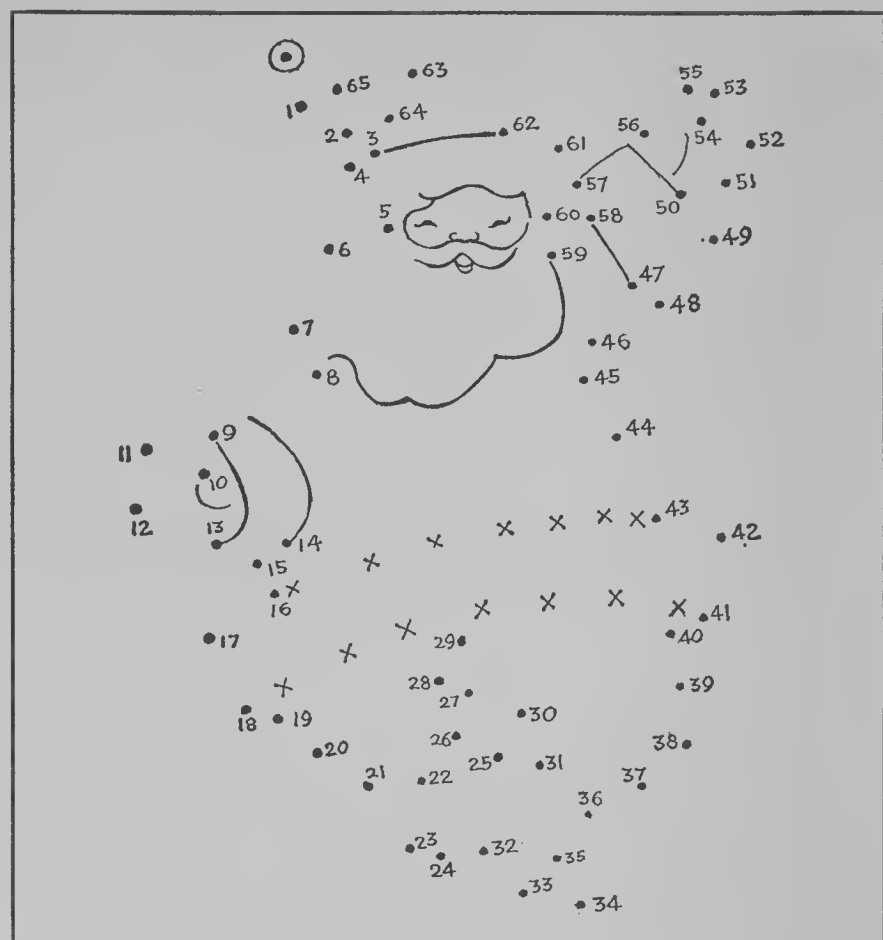
"What would we do without our little princess!" said her father, taking her on his knee.



And do you know what happened the very next day at school? Her teacher chose Josie's three brothers to be the three Wise Men in the Christmas play, and she chose Josie to be Mary, the Mother of the baby Jesus!

The night of the concert there was Josie on the stage, all in blue and white, her pixie face smiling shyly at her mother and father over the head of the sleeping Christ-child.

Josie was *very* glad she was a girl.



How well do you know your numbers? Put your pencil on the dot in the circle at the top, then draw a straight line to number one. Move on to number two; and keep right on going until you come to 65. If you follow the numbers correctly, you will find you have drawn a dancing Santa Claus. Now, starting on the left side of your picture join the top

row of x's with straight lines; join the x's in the row below.

There now, isn't he a jolly fellow? Now let's try a bit of color.

Leave the space between the x's and the printed lines white. Color Santa's jacket and trousers bright red. If you are very careful, you can color his eyes blue, his nose pink and his mouth bright red.

## Christmas Eve Pilgrimage

by DEXTER HUBBARD

CHRISTMAS customs are many and varied but one I consider rather unusual—and most praiseworthy—is that of a neighbor of mine whom I shall call John.

I first learned of it last Christmas Eve when I went over to John's place to borrow his stepladder to trim our tree. It was about 10 o'clock; but as I walked along the snow trench leading to John's farmhouse, I noticed that his barn lights were on. I decided that he must have been late starting his chores, or else he was sitting up with a sick animal. I was wrong on both counts, as I found out later.

Sitting on the feed box in the warm, hay-scented barn, John explained it this way: "I guess I'm not what you'd call a deeply religious man, but come Christmas Eve and a person starts to think. After all, Christmas is the holiest time of the year; what we're celebrating is the greatest, most important happening that ever took place in this world. So it seems to me a man ought to pay tribute to it in some special way."

He paused, then continued slowly, "This is my way. Every Christmas Eve I come out here to the barn and sit a while and think about that first

Christmas. You might call it a kind of pilgrimage, I guess. There's something sacred about a barn on Christmas Eve. There's bound to be—the Christ-child was born in a stable."

LATER, walking home through the still, frosty night, I reflected on what John had said about a barn being a sacred place on Christmas Eve. As I thought about it, I found myself agreeing with him completely because the most momentous event in history did take place in a stable. The first breath the Christ-child drew was the musty air of the stable; the first sounds to touch His ears must have been stable sounds—the bray of a curious donkey, perhaps, or the contented bleat of a lamb as it nestled close to its mother.

The stars were bright over my barn as I trudged up the lane, and for a moment I paused, undecided; then I remembered the untrimmed tree and I hurried on toward the house. But I promised myself that next year I would make my own Christmas Eve pilgrimage. I intend to keep that promise.

I wonder—will there be other pilgrims besides John and myself this Christmas Eve?

# Young People

It's later than you think

## How Do You Rate as a Student?

**T**O end the old year and start the new one, we have a quiz for you young people. Answer the questions first; then score your answers and check your rating. What happens then is up to you!

	YES	NO
1. Are you interested in most of the courses you are taking?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do you enjoy disagreeing with your teachers or professors?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Do you try to keep up with each assignment each day?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Do you dislike working in a library?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Are the papers you hand to your teacher, professor or reader legible, neatly typed or written?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Are you content with doing only the minimum assignment?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Do you enjoy discussing your courses with fellow students?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Are grades unimportant to you?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Do you try to understand the philosophy and personal characteristics of your teachers?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Do you think most of the other students in your classes are more intelligent than you are?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Do you feel you are getting something valuable from most of your courses?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Does final time find you "cramming" rather than reviewing?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Do you ask your teacher for clarification of points that confuse you and your fellow students?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Do you feel that social and sports activities are the most important part of your school life?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Do you try to look alert and interested in class?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. In the face of scholastic pressures, do you often forget your grooming?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. In the past have you kept some of your textbooks?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Do you often miss classes because of weariness, other work or disinterest?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Are you pleased when each term ends and the next begins?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Do you feel burdened down by seemingly unsurmountable obstacles?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SCORING:** Since you should be studying, we have made the scoring as simple and as easy as possible. Starting with 1, 3, 5, etc., every odd numbered question should be answered *yes*. The even numbered questions, 2, 4, 6, 8, etc., should be answered *no*.

**RATING:** 16-20 correct answers: You are an excellent student. You know how to deal with subject matter and accept high school or college life as a place to live with other people. You are acquiring a true education.

11-15 correct answers: You are a good student. Your incorrect answers should give you some hints for improvement. See the analysis below.

6-10 correct answers: Better take stock of yourself. Questions 3, 4, 5 and 12 test your work habits. Questions 1, 6, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15, 17 and 18 indicate your interest; if that is lacking, you may be wasting your time in school. Questions 2, 9, 10, 13, 16, 19 and 20 are indicative of your personality adjustment to the educational pattern.

1-5 correct answers: You are probably a problem to your teachers as well as to your fellow students, and it's time for you to mend your ways! V



Much of the success of this year's National 4-H Club Week can be attributed to the assistance of the Junior 4-H Club Council. Seated in front are: Enid Coles, P.E.I.; Jessie Aitken, Council Chairman, N.B.; John Wiens, Sask.; Richard Aylard, B.C.; standing (l. to r.): Patsy Greening, Nfld.; Leonard Best, N.S.; Patsy Dodds, Man.; Mrs. V. Bercier, Man. Dept. of Agriculture; R. E. Brack, University of Sask.; Ann Bowers, Que.; Lloyd Wilson, Ont.; J. McDonald, Alta.

IN THE SERVICE OF AGRICULTURE



### THE HOME ECONOMIST

is a University graduate, like the extension specialist. She works with the women and 'teen-age girls in the community, teaching them cooking, interior decorating and all the things that make for better farm living.

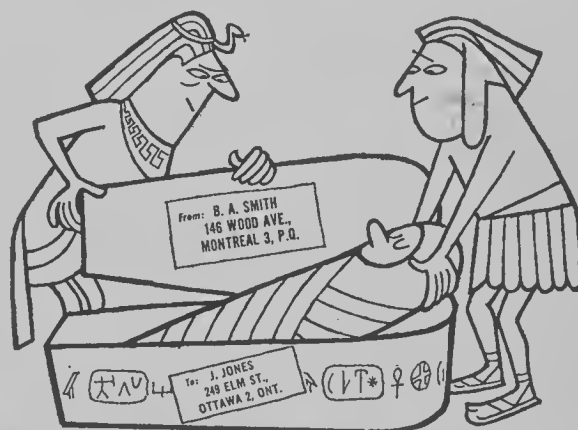
### OUR LOCAL MANAGER

is another person who works closely with many members of the community to help improve the standards of farm living. He has had long experience in looking after the banking needs of Canadian farmers. Visit him next time you're in town.

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Use strong wrapping paper and tie securely with strong cord.

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Put your own name and postal address (including zone number if applicable) in upper lefthand corner, and also inside parcel.

For correct postage, check parcel's weight at your nearest post office.

Address your mail clearly, completely, correctly



## CANADA POST OFFICE

Continued from page 13

## FAREWELL TO '59

be relaxing the cold war tensions between East and West. The summit conference that seems to be a certainty can go still farther in reducing these tensions. Here again, Canadian farmers must be alert as to the possible effect the negotiations will have on our agricultural trade.

**U.S. Surplus Disposal.** Continuing negotiations between Canada and the United States relative to various trade policies of the two nations is having some favorable influence upon our agricultural exports. We cannot say, however, that we have made substantial progress in this respect. The U.S. government has extended its P.L. 480 for another 2 years and is continuing to arrange trades with underdeveloped countries for its surplus agricultural products under a variety of plans.

**Removal of Import Controls.** Another development on the international level of significance to Canadian agriculture is the removal by the United Kingdom and most Western European countries of import controls on various products coming from dollar countries, as well as the convertibility of their currencies. This action relaxes the trade restrictions under which Canadian agricultural and other commodities have been laboring ever since the end of the last war.

**The International Wheat Agreement.** A new IWA was negotiated in 1959 and came into effect on August 1 for a 3-year period. It was changed in certain important respects. The membership now includes the United Kingdom. The maximum price for wheat was reduced from \$2.00 to \$1.90 per bushel. There are no fixed quantities for importers and exporters, but all trade between the negotiating countries is to be included under this agreement. Perhaps the most significant feature of the new IWA is the fact that it will continue to provide an international forum for discussion of mutual problems by the wheat trading nations. It is to be hoped that it will exert a stabilizing influence on wheat trading and price.

## Significant Developments at Home

**EARLY** in the year the mass delegation to Ottawa by prairie farmers, presenting their request for deficiency payments on wheat, oats

and barley delivered to the Canadian Wheat Board, has resulted more in a closer liaison between western farm organizations than in any positive action by the government.

**The St. Lawrence Seaway.** The opening of the Seaway is expected to have some reducing effect on the cost of transportation for Canadian agricultural products moving to the eastern seaboard, as well as upon the cost of moving products from the East to the West. This should be a blessing to Western Canadian farmers. There is, however, a fly in the ointment. The Seaway opening gives U.S. farm exports, particularly grains, a cheaper route to European and other markets.

**Canadian Farm Legislation.** In keeping with its earlier promises, the Federal Government introduced a crop insurance act to assist provinces desirous of instituting an active program of crop insurance. Under this act the Federal Government will contribute up to 50 per cent of the cost of administering a provincial scheme, and will reimburse the province's share of premiums up to a maximum of 20 per cent of the total premiums. Furthermore, the Federal Government will loan up to 75 per cent of any amount over \$200,000 that a province has to make up to meet claims in any one year.

Currently, Manitoba is the only province that has taken action under this act. It has approved legislation for the establishment of three test areas to investigate the suitability of crop insurance in this province.

Increased provisions for farm credit were made through federal and provincial legislation approved this year. The new Federal Farm Credit Act, which came into effect on October 5, has replaced the earlier Canadian Farm Loan Act. Under the new legislation the Farm Credit Corporation, which is administered by the Minister of Agriculture, will make two types of loans available to farmers. Regular farm business loans to a maximum of \$20,000 will be made to established farmers. These loans, not to exceed 75 per cent of the appraised value of the farm, will be issued at an interest rate of 5 per cent to a maximum of 30 years.

The second type is a supervised loan, available to borrowers between 21 and 45 years of age, who are either beginning farmers or farmers operating uneconomic units, and who have had at least 5 years farming experience. These loans, which may be as high as 75 per cent of the appraised value of the farm and chattels of the borrower, cannot exceed \$27,500. The Corporation will supervise all such loans until they are paid off to 65 per cent of the appraised value of the land. The farm credit acts approved by the prairie provinces are similar in nature to the Federal act.

The passage of these acts is a desirable move on behalf of Canadian farmers. Already a large demand for loans has developed and these are being processed. However, two im-

portant difficulties are envisaged. The 5 per cent rate is obviously below the cost of money at present and will likely continue to be for some time. If past experience is any guide, we can anticipate this lower rate being capitalized into higher land prices. This will dissipate any advantage from the subsidized rate. One means of insurance against this happening is to apply sound appraisal criteria in evaluating the security for loans. The new act contains no revisions on this point. It can only be concluded that there will be no change from past appraisal methods, which were unsatisfactory.

A second difficulty may very well emerge from the supervisory requirement. To be effective supervision requires the provision of a farm management service to each farmer. This is good, but do we have sufficient knowledge and sufficient trained personnel to do the job? Anything less than this can add to the beginning farmer's difficulties rather than to a solution of them.

**OTHER** actions of significance to Canadian agriculture instituted in Canada during the current year include the following:

1. The appointment of the Royal Commission on Transportation to study inequities in the freight rate structure, the obligations imposed on the railways by public policy, and the possibilities of achieving more efficient and economical railway transportation. This Commission was announced after the railways had requested a further 12 per cent increase in railway rates following a 17 per cent increase toward the end of 1958.

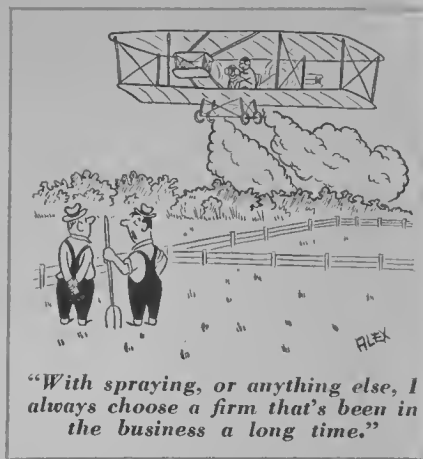
2. The Royal Commission on Price Spreads for Food products is continuing its study and it is expected will bring down its report by the end of 1959. Farmers are awaiting the results with a great deal of anticipation as they see a further reduction in their share of the consumer dollar.

3. The Senate Land-Use Committee was reconstituted during the year and, while it did not bring down any definite recommendations, it did suggest the need for greater research into the problems of the small farm and the proper use of land.

4. The Senate Committee on Finance instituted a study in the problems of inflation as it affects the Canadian economy. Canadian agricultural organizations presented briefs to this committee and we are now looking forward to the results of this investigation. Farmers are especially interested in any recommendations that may emanate from this Committee, because they were severely restricted in their current operations as a result of the tight money situation which developed in the third quarter of 1959.

## Commodity Highlights

**TOTAL** world food supplies during the current production year are expected to rise, although the production of bread grains will be smaller. The estimated world wheat crop for the current year, at 7.9 billion bushels, is about 800 million bushels smaller than a year ago. Carryover of wheat stocks in the four principal exporting countries, however, was 2,445.6 million bushels, practically unchanged from a year



ago. The decline in carryover in Canada and Argentina was offset by an increase in carryover in Australia and the United States.

The overall production of field crops in Canada is somewhat greater than that of 1958. This is due primarily to a 6 per cent increase in the major grains as estimated prior to the snowfall in Western Canada. All other field crops, with the exception of sunflowers, show a decline in production in 1959 over the previous year. Notable amongst these are flax seed, soybeans, rapeseed, and dry beans. Fruit production of all kinds also declined, especially apples and the tender fruits. Potatoes are down by 14 per cent, while other vegetables are about the same as last year. Tobacco is lower both in acreage and production.

**Wheat.** On the basis of the September 15 estimates, the total Canadian wheat crop of 421 million bushels was 13 per cent above the estimate of 372 million bushels last year. This increase is due to a 10 per cent increase in acreage and a 3 per cent increase in yields. The increase in production is entirely in the West, since the Ontario winter wheat crop, which suffered heavy winter killing, is estimated at only 12 million bushels—half of last year's crop. With stocks of 546 million bushels on August 1, our total supply will be 967 million bushels.

In the aggregate, we may expect that our total exports of wheat and flour during the current year to reach the same amount as last year. With domestic disappearance of 160 million bushels, our total stocks at the end of the current crop year may be somewhere around the 500 million bushels which means a decrease from last August. This will provide some easement to farmers who have been unable to deliver wheat in the past.

**Feed Grains.** The combined output of feed grains, totaling 724 million bushels is only 5 million bushels above the 1958 production. Barley acreages were reduced by 1½ million acres, while oats and mixed grain acreages were up slightly. The result was an increase of 23 million bushels of oats and a decrease of 16 million bushels of barley. The total stocks of feed grains on August 1, of 254 million bushels, are 3 per cent lower than last year. There is no concern, however, about sufficient feed grains to carry the livestock through the current crop year, even with an estimated 3 per cent increase in grain consuming animal units.

If the anticipated increase in exports of oats and barley to the United States and to some European coun-





tries develops, we may end up the current crop year with a lower carry-over of these grains than last year. This could mean an improvement in the returns from feed grains, although the initial payment for oats and barley by the Wheat Board continues at the same level as last year.

**Livestock.** Almost two-thirds of farm cash income in the first half of 1959 was from the sale of livestock and livestock products, up 3.3 per cent from last year. Returns were greater for all products except cattle and calves. The most striking development was the sharp increase in hog marketings. This more than offsets the 11 per cent reduction in the marketings of cattle, as well as the reduced marketings of calves, sheep and lambs. The consequence is a larger total supply of meat available for domestic consumption, export and carryover. Current estimates indicate a total supply for the year of 2.3 billion pounds of all meats, with domestic consumption at nearly 2 billion pounds. This is an increase of 7 per cent from last year, chiefly for pork.

**Hogs.** On farms on June 1 hogs were up 11.5 per cent over a year ago, supporting a substantial increase in marketings. Actual total marketings by October 31 stood at 7 million hogs, an increase of 37 per cent over the same 10 months of 1958. It is estimated that marketings will continue at about the same rate for the rest of the year, to make a total of 8.8 million hogs marketed.

Hog prices throughout the year were at the support level of \$25 basis Toronto until October 1, and at \$23.65 since. The \$25 price, which was 84.5 per cent of the 10-year average, operated as a strong incentive to production. It resulted in an estimated surplus for the year of 160 million pounds of pork, largely purchased by the Agricultural Stabilization Board.

**Cattle and Calves.** Cattle and calves on farms on June 1 were up 1 per cent over 1958, but at 11.1 million head were below the all-time high of 11.3 million in 1957. Despite these larger numbers, the marketings of cattle and calves were lower by 11 per cent and 16 per cent respectively under 1958. This resulted in lower total output of beef and veal with a consequent reduction in domestic consumption. The decline in cattle marketings is also reflected in the sharp drop in exports to the United States. In the 10 months ended October 31, a total of 200,000 head were exported. This was less than half of the 430,000 head exported in the same period a year earlier.

The continuing demand in the United States, especially for feeders, associated with the lower marketings, has held prices firm at about \$2 or more above 1958 for most of the year. The price that may prevail in 1960 will depend a great deal on the U.S. cattle situation. The build-up in numbers and the large number on feed this fall suggests a price decline in the new year, although this should be moderate and seasonal.

**Dairying.** Farm income from dairying will likely continue at about the same level as in 1958. Total estimated milk production at about 18 billion pounds is the same as 1958. More of the milk was used for fluid, cheese and ice cream purposes. Less went

into butter and concentrated milk products. Prices for all dairy products, except cheese which was higher, approximated those of 1958.

Creamery butter prices remained near the support level for the first 9 months of this year. This resulted in stocks of almost 125 million pounds at the end of August. These are expected to decline to about 110 million pounds at the end of the year, largely due to a decline in domestic consumption. These stocks are mostly in the hands of the Agricultural Stabilization Board.

Skim milk powder prices also continued around the support level until this was reduced on May 1. However, the total supply increased, and by the end of August, stocks of skim milk powder stood at about 56 million pounds. Price support for this product was terminated after September 30. This, coupled with an improved demand at home and abroad, is likely to reduce these stocks considerably.

**Eggs and Poultry.** Production of eggs and poultry continued to increase in 1959. Egg production for



the year is estimated at 465 million dozen, up 3 per cent over 1958. Poultry meat production of all kinds for this year is estimated to reach about 500 million pounds, a 10 per cent increase over 1958. This increase is attributed chiefly to chicken broilers and turkeys. Receipts at registered stations to September 26 totalled 120 million pounds of eviscerated chicken broilers, 18 per cent over 1958, and 41 million pounds of eviscerated turkeys, 28 per cent over 1958. It is estimated that for the full year these will total 165 million and 96 million pounds respectively.

As a result of heavy production of eggs and poultry meats, prices for them weakened. Egg prices at various times in the year were at the support level of 44¢. Purchases by the Agricultural Stabilization Board had reached 920,000 cases by early September. On October 1, the Board terminated its purchase program and began to handle eggs on a deficiency payment basis.

Poultry meat prices also weakened during the year. Chicken broilers averaged about 6¢ a pound below 1958. Turkey prices, which are supported at 25¢ liveweight until the end of the year, were selling about 6¢ below this

in September and were about 8¢ a pound lower than in 1958.

**FARMERS** will regard the year 1959 with mixed feelings. On the one hand it appears that farm income will hold at the improved level of 1958. On the other hand production this year is disappointing in many respects. Similarly, on the policy side, the introduction of crop insurance legislation and the revision of farm credit legislation appear as favorable actions for agriculture. But in contrast, changes in the administration of the price support program from one of "support and purchase" to one of "deficiency payments" has some disturbing elements.

The fading out of the issue of vertical integration in agriculture, and the slowdown in the push for marketing boards (which await the results of the investigation by the Ontario Government), seems to have left farmers in Canada in a state of suspended animation this year.

While there are many issues which farmers are concerned about, for whatever reason, they have failed to find a central theme around which to build a program. Consequently they are in a rather confused state of mind. This confusion, may, of course, be due largely to the recent revolutionary changes in government farm policy.

#### Price Support Changes

**W**ITHOUT a doubt, the action that has had the most direct impact upon Canadian farmers during the current year has been the change in the administration of the price supports program. The provision for mandatory price supports for 9 agricultural products at a minimum of 80 per cent of the previous 10-year average price and its effect, even on products not included under the mandatory clause, resulted in many farm prices being endowed with incentive qualities. Consequently, for some of these, production increased and surpluses accumulated in the hands of the Agricultural Stabilization Board.

To modify or overcome this trend, the Government has proceeded to do two things in 1959. One, to change its support program from a purchasing operation to a deficiency payment operation; and two, to reduce the support price or to eliminate it. Thus we note that up to the present time the following actions were taken:

- The support price on skim milk powder was reduced from 15¢ to 10¢ a pound on May 1. On September 30 it was terminated completely.
- Deficiency payments have been paid on wool.
- Commencing January 1, 1960, the turkey support will be reduced from 25¢ to 20¢ per pound liveweight.
- The support price on eggs was eliminated on October 1 and an egg deficiency payment has been introduced in its place.

- The support price on hogs was reduced from \$25 to \$23.65 per cwt. (warm dressed weight) commencing October 1. On October 21 the Minister of Agriculture announced a deficiency payment on hogs to commence January 11, 1960.

The significant features about the latter two items are:

1. A deficiency payment will be paid on a limited quantity of the



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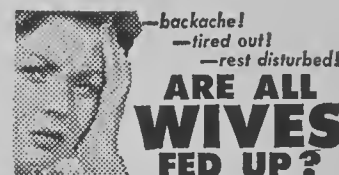
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between the brand you put on your livestock and the brand an advertiser puts on his product. A livestock brand signifies ownership only. A product brand signifies not only ownership but quality as well. The reputation of the manufacturer will suffer if his branded product fails to give the consumer satisfaction. As a general rule you can buy a branded product with confidence.

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farmer's production of these products. For eggs it will be up to 4,000 dozen for Grade A large and extra large, and for hogs it will be up to 100 Grade A and B hogs, per year.

2. The deficiency payment will be calculated on the basis of the national average market price for each product in relation to a set support price. For eggs this price is 33¢ basis Grade A large and for hogs it is \$23.65 per cwt. basis Grade A and B, Toronto.

3. The Government will not purchase any eggs or hogs—all will be sold on the open market at whatever price they will bring.

THE concern among farmers, and even some of the confusion that exists, can be attributed to these changes in the agricultural policies recently announced. For years the philosophy of the Department of Agriculture has been to encourage efficiency in agriculture, in both the production and economic organization of the industry. To this end increasing budgets have been assigned to promote research for the improvement of crops and livestock and methods of production. More recently, through increasing work in farm management, encouragement has been given to farmers to reorganize their farm businesses so as to adjust to the new technologies and current demand conditions. Both have such influence that the profit margin per unit of product is continuously narrowing. Therefore, to produce the income necessary to provide the farmer with the desirable standard of living, he must increase the number of units produced, which means an increasing size of farm business.

Research and development in agricultural economics has been geared to provide guides for the farmers to move in this direction. Legislation such as the revised Farm Credit Act, revisions in the Farm Improvement Loans Act, new provisions for farm credit by provincial governments, and the like, are all aimed at assisting the farmer to adjust to the new situations by increasing his farm business.

It is no wonder, therefore, that the efficient farmer who heeds all this advice and who takes advantage of credit services, etc., finds himself in a confused state. He enjoys only a limited price support and is to be exposed almost completely to the vagaries of the open market from which he has been substantially shielded for some time.

The type of action taken by the Federal Government may very well work in the opposite direction to all programs designed to speed up adjustments to the new conditions of technology and markets in the farming industry. It is likely that deficiency payments on the limited quantity of output for eggs and hogs, if extended to other products on the same basis, may retard the necessary adjustments to these new conditions. This would be unfortunate because it will prolong the difficulties that agriculture as an industry has been encountering in the last several decades.

From all the evidence available, it appears that most agricultural product prices in 1960 will hold at about the same level as this year. Costs will

likely rise so that the net income of farmers in 1960 will depend to a considerable degree upon the production in that year. Thus, the everlasting question of production will continue as an uncertainty in farm planning in 1960.

The big task for farmers, therefore, will be to clarify the issues that are inherent in the changing farm policies because these will influence production and management decisions. If farmers and their organizations can devise a sound action program in this respect in 1960, they will have taken a very important step toward the solution of some of their problems. V

Continued from page 11

## CHANGING ATTITUDE

keeping in close touch with the situation, that he would be discussing government aid with the provincial ministers at a private meeting, and that an announcement could be expected within a few days. (The Federal Government's aid program has been announced and is outlined on page 7.)

Both farm organizations complimented the Federal Government for revising its farm credit legislation, and for passing, for the first time in Canada, a Crop Insurance Act. The general feeling seemed to be that both measures were needed, and represented real progress. However, the IFUC expressed serious reservations about the Federal Crop Insurance program. It contended that 80 per cent of the premium costs, which must be borne by the farmers and provincial governments that enter the program, was more than they could stand in their present financial circumstances.

The CFA and the IFUC also urged the Federal Government to expand its efforts in the field of farm economic research. The view was expressed that insufficient statistical and other data was available in many instances to determine the true nature of the problems of the farming industry. Without such information, and well conceived economic research, it was impossible to properly assess the problems or to arrive at the right solutions to them.

In responding to this request, Mr. Harkness agreed that more could be done, and he expressed the hope that it would be possible to expand the activities of his Department in the field of farm economics research.

Still another matter upon which the farm organizations agreed was the necessity of preserving the family-type farm. They left no doubt in anyone's mind that the pattern of family ownership and operation of farms in agriculture should be continued, and that such a pattern is perfectly consistent with an economically efficient agriculture. It was quite clear that the maintenance of the family-type farm was the main objective of farm organizations, and that they believed bold action was needed by all concerned if it was to survive. V



## Rural Route Letter

Hi Folks:

Sara has a pretty solid idea what a person should or shouldn't do, and she never hesitates to speak her mind.

"What did that Ted Corbett want this time?" she wanted to know, after she'd finished pushing the kids off to school. "I saw him out there leaning on the fence talking when you were trying to do your chores. If he spent as much time working as talking, their farm would be a valley showplace instead of the cluttered up mess it is. Why Dolly told me she found him lying on the creekbank one day last summer just staring up at the sky when he was supposed to be cutting hay. Now I ask you, what kind of a man would be content to fritter away his hours like that?"

I just grinned and didn't say anything (a trick I learned early in my married life), but her words got me to thinking about what kind of a man my neighbor Ted Corbett really is.

Sure, he talks a lot I guess, and most of the things he says don't amount to a row of beans. I suppose you could make out a case for his carelessness too, and he isn't the best guy to call on if you have to move something heavy either. He's apt to groan a lot and pretend he's straining under the load when he's hardly holding on at all.

I can't help but remember though, that time I got caught under my tractor. Ted grabbed a fence post and heaved away with all his might until I was free, the sweat just pouring off him as he worked. Then he rounded

up some of the boys to get my hay crop in so I wouldn't run short of winter feed.

Yes sir, Ted spends a lot of time talking, and day dreaming too, I expect, but I don't recall him ever saying anything about anybody that he wouldn't dare say to their face.

Ted doesn't go to church on Sundays because he figures people expect him to, or because the Creamery manager is a deacon, and he thinks it might pay off some day to have a bit of pull at the place he sells his milk. He goes there to worship, and hear what the minister has to say. If what he hears doesn't make sense to him, he isn't backward afterwards about letting the preacher know.

Ted's kids aren't liable to sprout wings for some time to come, any more than my own. But I can't see them packing zip guns, or sticking knives into people. They know all about the birch rod in the tool shed, and that Ted won't hesitate to use it.

If he had a million dollars, Ted wouldn't look down on you because he had a bigger house or a lot of extra trinkets that you didn't have. He knows a whole raft of things a man can enjoy without money, and one of these is lying beside a creek on a summer day just gazing at the blue, blue sky, and thinking. Maybe there would be a better world if more of us would do the same.

Yours,

PETE WILLIAMS.

## The Tillers

by JIM ZILVERBERG



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